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SMASHING YOU UP BODY AND SOUL
CHAPTER 19: SWITCH
VOLUME 1 WILL HIT THE SHELVES ON SEPTEMBER 19TH!!!
RIKUDO
SPIRITED FIRST SERIES
A WELL RECEIVED AND POPULAR MANGA SHOWING RIKU AZAMI'S WAY OF LIFE!!
TOSHIMITSU MATSUBARA

WORRYING THINGS...
OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, SEVERAL FIGHTS BETWEEN DELINQUENTS HAVE BROKEN OUT IN DISTRICT ****
PEOPLE HAVE REPORTED HEARING GUNSHOTS.
THE POLICE HAVE EVEN INCREASED THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS...
RIRIKU,
...ARE YOU GOING TO THE GYM?

12/21
NO,
MY INJURIES MAY HAVE HEALED, BUT THE GYM'S CLOSED RIGHT NOW... I'LL JUST DO SOME ROAD-WORK.
...
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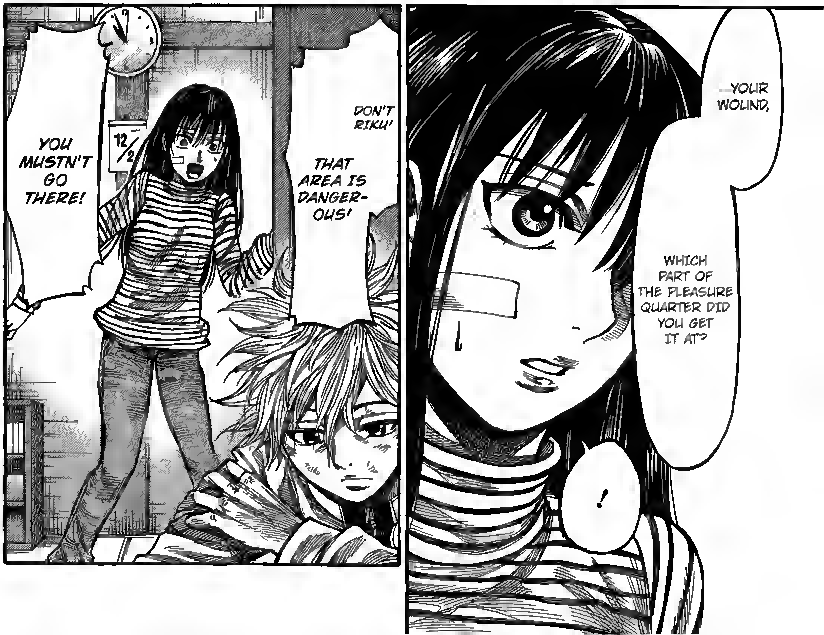
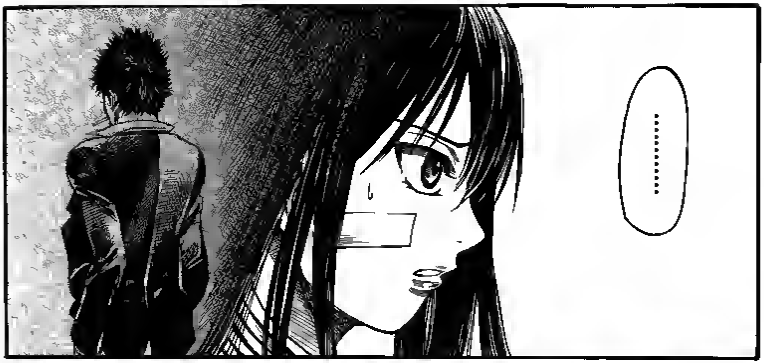

YOU MUSTN'T GO THERE!
DON'T RIKU!
THAT AREA IS DANGER-OUS!
...YOUR WOUND,
WHICH PART OF THE PLEASURE QUARTER DID YOU GET IT AT?
!



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I CAN'T BELIEVE RIKU SMILED LIKE THAT...
REALLY
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT CRAZY YAKUZA...!
TELLING ME TO STOP CHASING AFTER RIKU...
!
I WONDER WHEN HIS NEXT FIGHT IS. I GUESS I'LL ASK THE CHAIRMAN...
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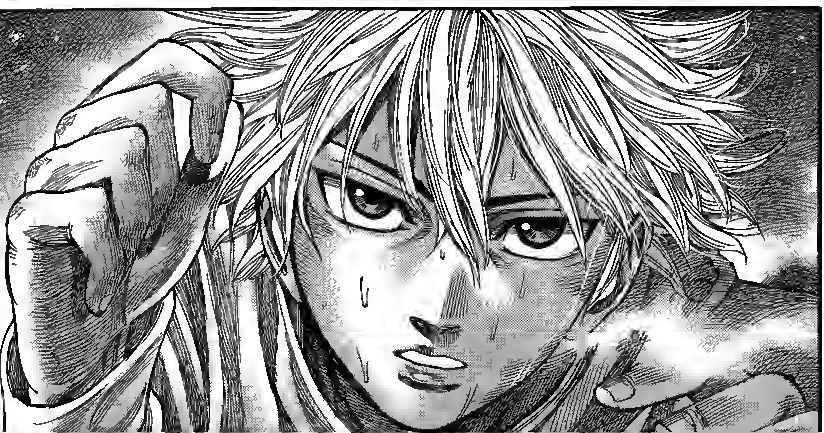

フ゛ン
SHI-
SH-
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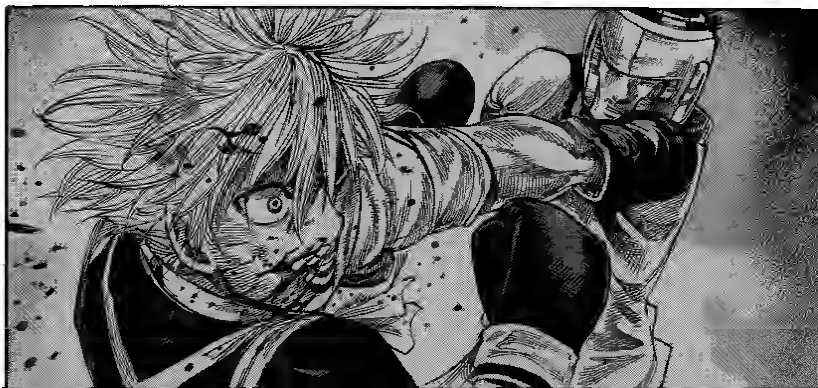
SHI-
THE FIGHT'S IN TWO DAYS...
CORRECTING THE FORM OF MY RIGHT STRAIGHTS... I CAN'T MANAGE THAT IN SUCH A SHORT TIME...



DURING SPARRING .. I KEPT THINKING I NEEDED TO REACT BEFORE BEING STRUCK BUT I COULDN'T PULL IT OFF
DOING MY HOMEWORK, BASICALLY USING IN-FIGHTING, WILL CERTAINLY HELP ME COPE WITH LOSING THE INITIATIVE
REACTING BEFORE BEING STRUCK...EVEN THOUGH I KEPT THINKING IT WAS RECKLESS...
...HUH...?
I WONDER HOW MR. "OKOROZAWA WOULD DEAL WITH IT?
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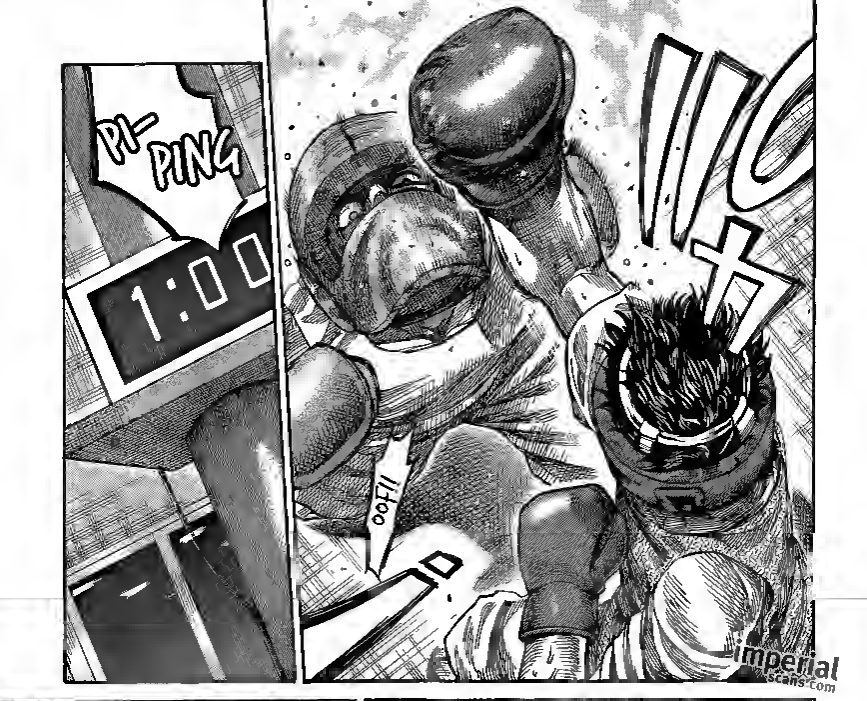
BUT IS IT REALLY THAT RECKLESS?



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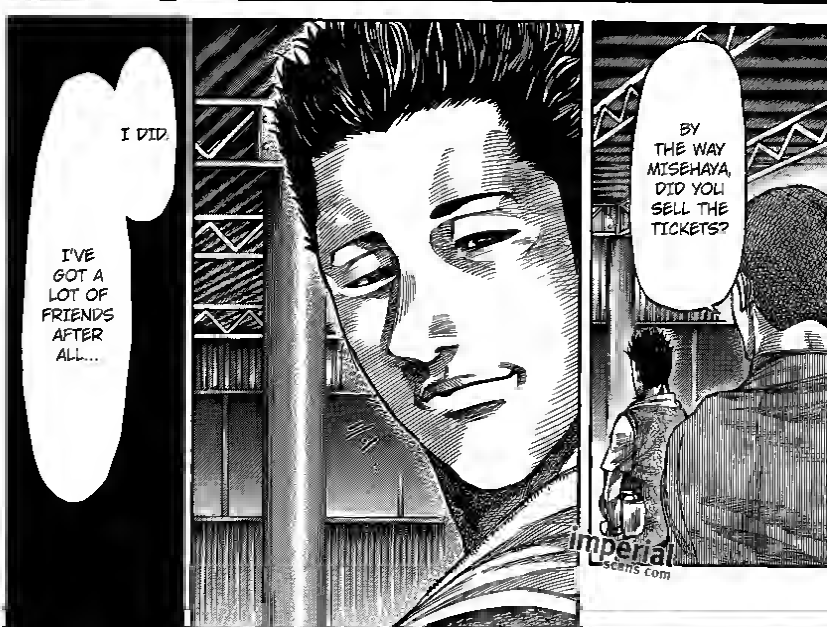

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DAY
OF THE
FIGHT
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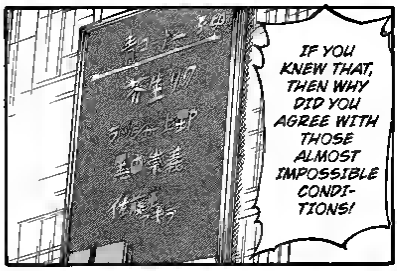
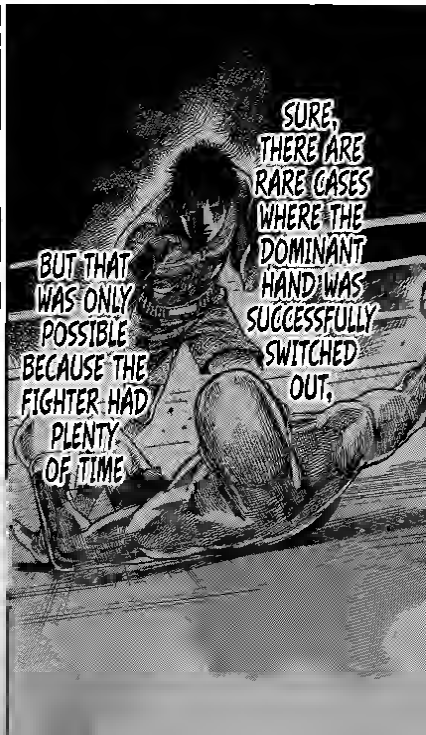
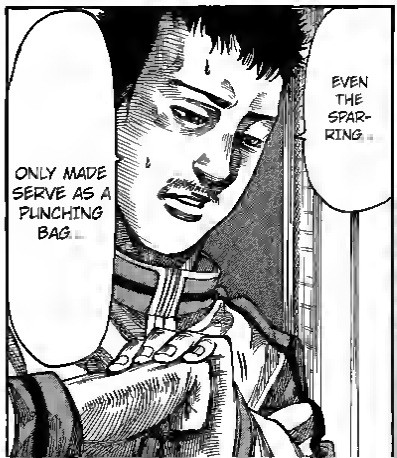



SURE, THERE ARE RARE CASES WHERE THE DOMINANT HAND WAS SUCCESSFULLY SWITCHED OUT,
BUT THAT WAS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE THE FIGHTER HAD PLENTY OF TIME



THAT'S RIGHT.
I HAD YOU BEAT THE KID UP "ONE-SIDEDELY" AND "UNREASONABLY".
ポリ
ポリ
WITH THAT, THE KID'S GOT SOMETHING TO REMEMBER,
IT'S ALL PART OF WHAT I HAVE IN MIND.
Heh Heh
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?

DAD...
REKU

WHY ARE YOU HERE...?
I'D EVEN THOUGHT I'D FINALLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU.
SO WHY ARE YOU SHOWING UP NOW?
imperial
DAD...

DON'T BUTT IN.
I'VE GOT A FIGHT RIGHT NOW SO,
RIKU

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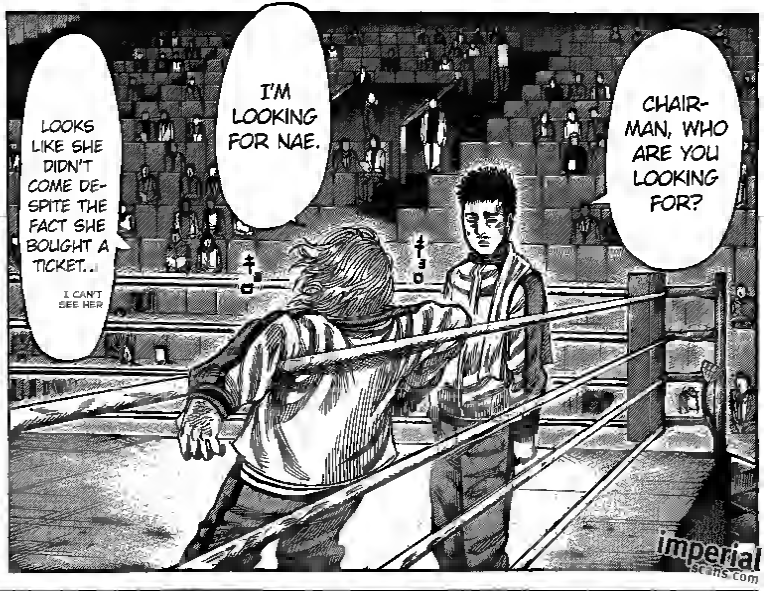
DECEMBER; SECOND PROFESSIONAL FIGHT. AN INTENSE FIGHT AGAINST MISEHAYA AN ELITE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IN THE SAME YEAR.


CHAIR-MAN, WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
I'M LOOKING FOR NAE.
LOOKS LIKE SHE DIDN'T COME DE-SPITE THE FACT SHE BOUGHT A TICKET..
I CAN'T SEE HER
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CHAPTER 20: DRAGGING OUT
MISE-HAYA WILL BE FIGHT-ING...
I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THIS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME...
THAT...
I'D HEARD FROM MISEHAYA BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WAS ACTUALLY A BOXER...
HIM, THE MURD-ERER...
RIGHT BEFORE THE GONG,
リウボウ
RIUBO
VOLUME 1 WILL HIT THE SHELVES ON SEPTEMBER 19TH!!!!
津島の初連戦!!
大攻撃。
TOSHIMITSU MATSUBARA
THE WELL RECEIVED AND POPULAR MANGA ABOUT A BOY WHO'S ONLY GOT HIS FISTS FOR HIMSELF!!

I HOPE YOU REMEMBER OUR CONDITION, AZAMI...

MY SENIOR AS A PRO BOXER.

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FLAG: MISEHAYA, FIGHT. CLASS 2-2

三瀬 ファイト
2年2組

LOOKS LIKE HYODO DID NOT COME TO WATCH SINCE HE'S OVERSEAS FOR TRAINING

WELL, I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER TO YOU WHO COMES TO WATCH YOU ANYWAY

...SO, KID.

キュン キュン
ANY THOUGHTS ON HIM?
WOW...
ラウント
imperial-scans.com
ROUND 1!
...I GOT THIS.

imperial
scans.com
SQUEAK

imperial

imperial Scans.com

WOOSH
WOOSH
SQUEAK

MY CONDITION TO EASE THE MATCH...LOOKS LIKE I HAVE THIS IN THE POCKET.
HOW TROUBLE-SOME THIS MUST BE FOR YOU AZAMI... ONLY BEING ABLE TO USING INFIGHTING AND YOUR NON-DOMINANT FIST...

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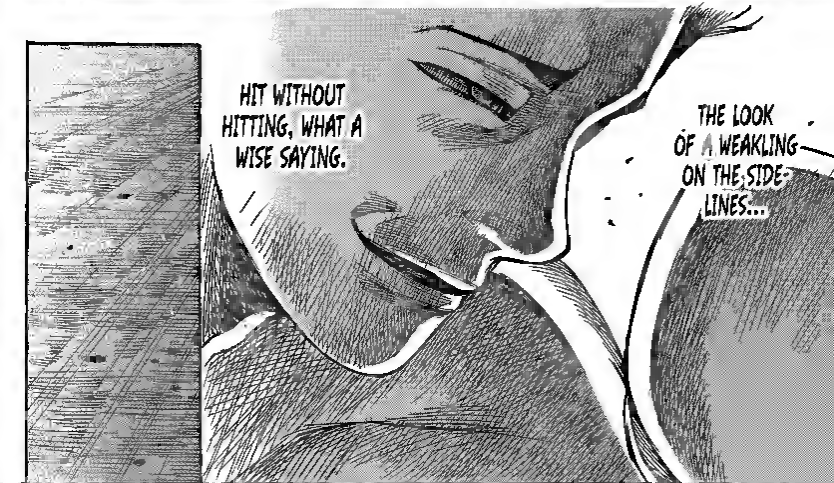

TSUBA-SAAA, GET RID OF THAT MURDER-ER!!
Hah Hah Hah
imperial
I LEARNED HOW TO PUNCH A LONG TIME AGO...
I SEE... A SITUATION LIKE THIS WHERE I KEEP GETTING HIT...
THAT'S WHY YOU APPEARED,
RIGHT, DAD...?

ALL THE MORE REASON THEN...
TO OVERCOME MY HOME-WORK RIGHT NOW...
imperial SCANS.com
!...

RIKU... IS TRYING THINGS SO THE REFEREE WON'T PUT A STOP TO THE FIGHT BUT...
imperial scans.com
CHAIRMAN, I THOUGHT AS MUCH, THIS MIGHT NOT EVEN BE A FIGHT AT THIS RATE
YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND AND HAD HIM BE BEAT UP ONE-SIDEDLY BUT,
...JUST WHAT DO YOU HAVE ON YOUR MIND?
.....

I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO ACHIEVE A ONE ROUND KO FOR YOUR DEBUT FIGHT!
MISEHAYA, HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA PLAY AROUND FOR?!
imperial
SHUT UP OLD MAN, I'M TRYING!
WHOOSH

I'VE ALREADY LANDED A LOT OF PUNCHES ON HIM...
FWOOSH
I'VE BEEN GOING ALL OUT SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING TO MAKE THAT REALITY.

HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
I CAN'T SEEM TO SMACK THIS PEST DOWN
AND HE'S EVEN COMING AT ME TO STING TOO!
NIKU
BUT...
SQUEAK
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IT TAUGHT HIM FEAR AND MENTAL STRAIN AMONG OTHERS, BUT ALSO...
BEING THE TARGET OF SUCH VIOLENT ABUSE THAT MUCH IN HIS CHILDHOOD FORGED SOMETHING INTO THE KID.
A SURVIVAL INSTINCT THAT ENABLES HIM TO DISTINGUISH THE KINDS OF VIOLENCE THAT WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS TO TAKE HEAD ON.
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JOLT
IF HE MANAGES TO SHOW THAT INSTINCT NOW,
!
HE'D BE ABLE TO FEEL THE DANGER
RIGHT BEING PUNCHED.

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THIS IS THE BOY WHO SHE'S BEEN WITH FOR ALL THESE YEARS!

EVER SINCE HE WAS IN THE ORPHAN-AGE...

ALWAYS...

HE'S ALWAYS BEEN "BOXING"...

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AT LAST! VOLUME 1 HITS THE SHELVES ON SEPTEMBER 19TH!!

リクドウ RIKUDO

CHAPTER 21: ABUSIVE FATHER

TOSHIMITSU MATSUBARA

SPIRITED FIRST SERIES!

WAS IT...

RIKU SAY.

SIGN: ROUND 2 - TIME LEFT, 3 MIN 00 SEC

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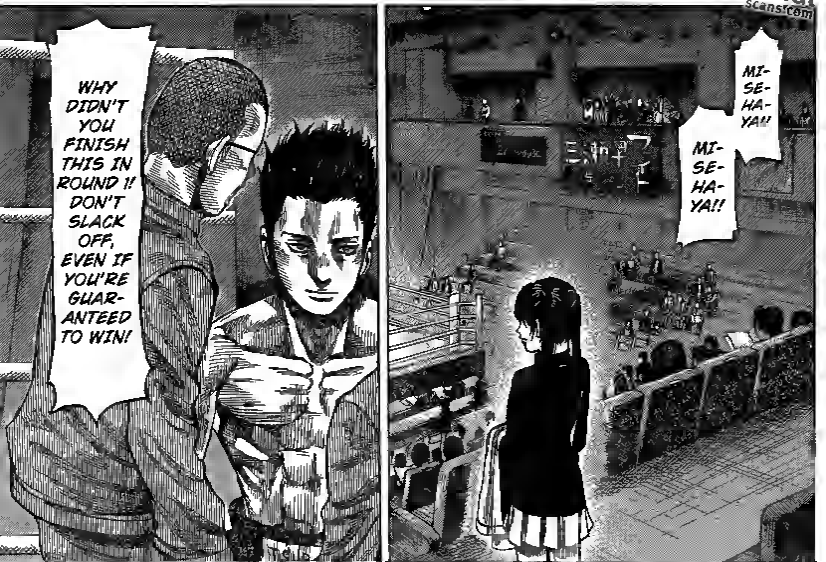

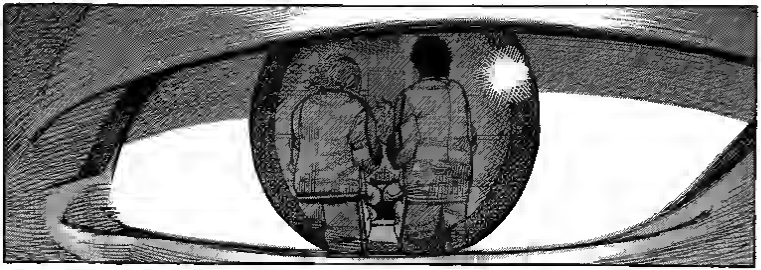

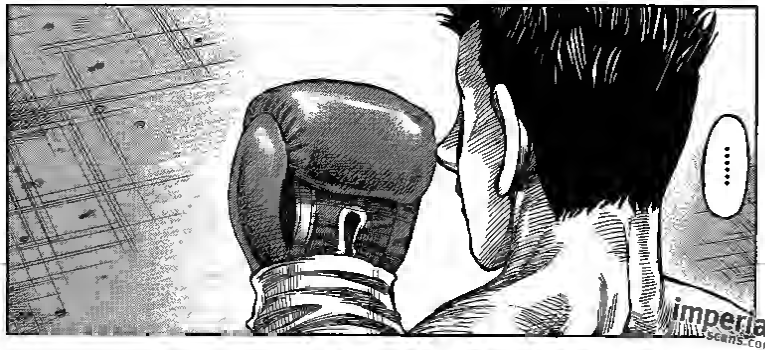

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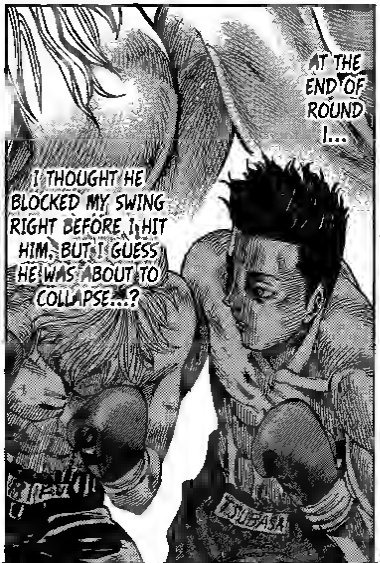

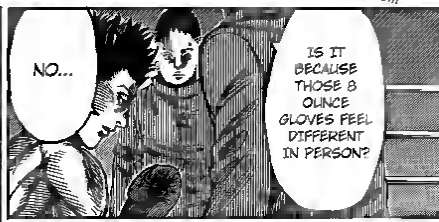

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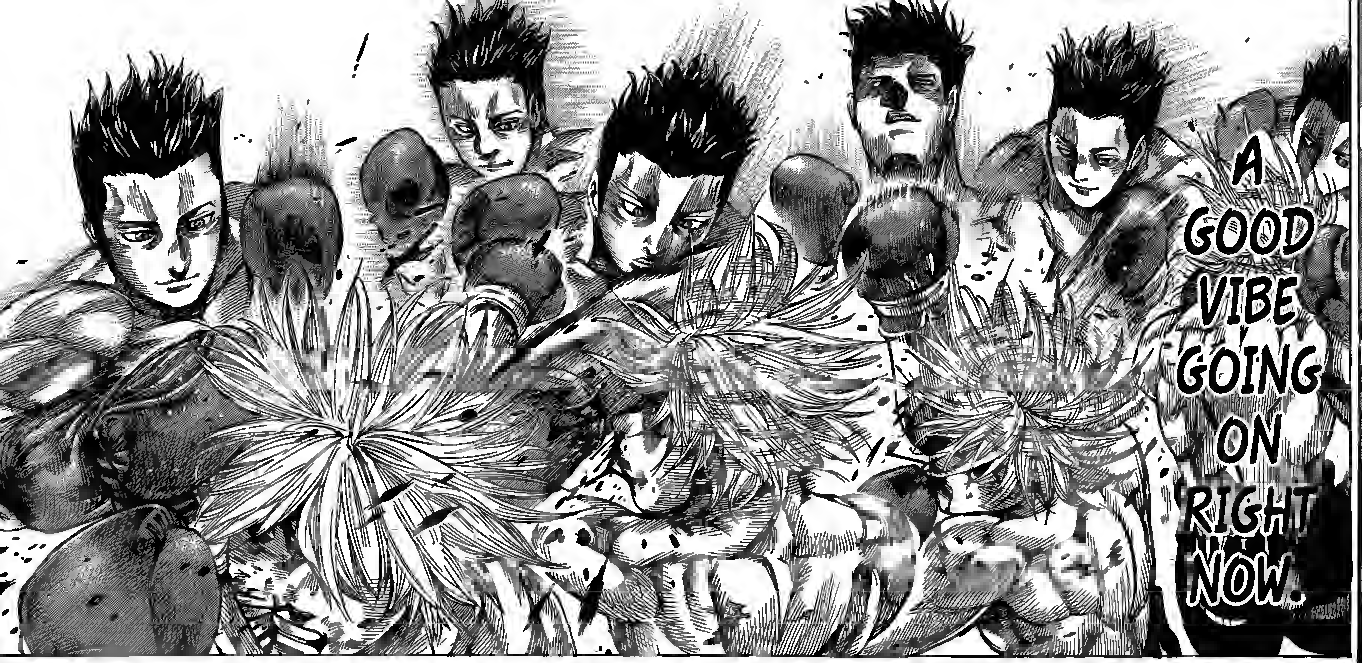

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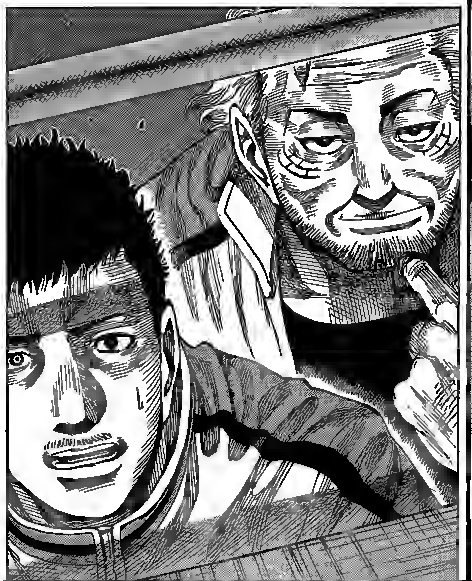

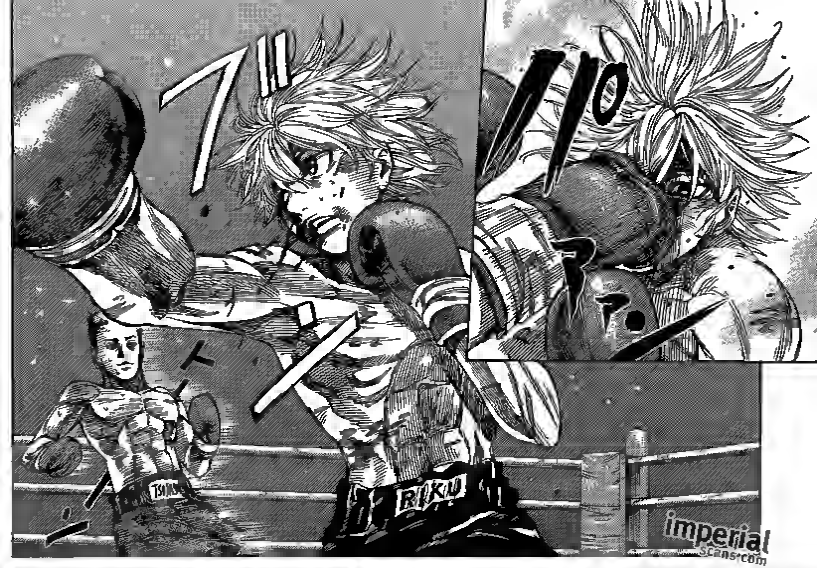
RIKU
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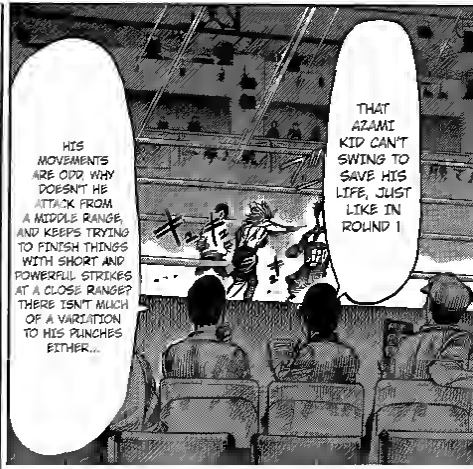
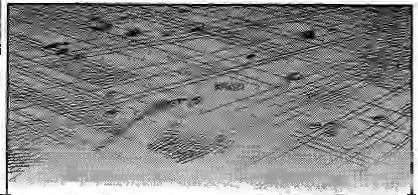
WAS HYODO REALLY GOING CRAZY OVER THAT GUY?


THAT AZAMI KID CAN'T SWING TO SAVE HIS LIFE, JUST LIKE IN ROUND 1
HIS MOVEMENTS ARE ODD. WHY DOESN'T HE ATTACK FROM A MIDDLE RANGE, AND KEEPS TRYING TO FINISH THINGS WITH SHORT AND POWERFUL STRIKES AT A CLOSE RANGE? THERE ISN'T MUCH OF A VARIATION TO HIS PUNCHES EITHER...



MISEHAYA IS THE ONE WITH THE OUTSTANDING TALENT. HE EVEN FOUGHT HYODO TWO MONTHS AGO AT THE NATIONALS
IT'LL BE QUITE INTERESTING IF IT'S DECIDED THEY'LL HAVE A REMATCH AT THE ROOKIE KING.
ARE YOU IDIOTS? OF COURSE I'M BETTER THAN HIM.
CHAIRMAN. TELL ME, HOW IS THIS..
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scans.com

imperial
scans

LEFT HOOK.
HE...?!
DIDN'T LOOK JUST NOW...
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
MISE-HAYA...?!
...T-THAT'S RIGHT NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...
BY JUST LOOKING AT ONE PART... OF HIS BODY MOVING...
...!
I COULD ALREADY SEE THROUGH THE REST OF IT...

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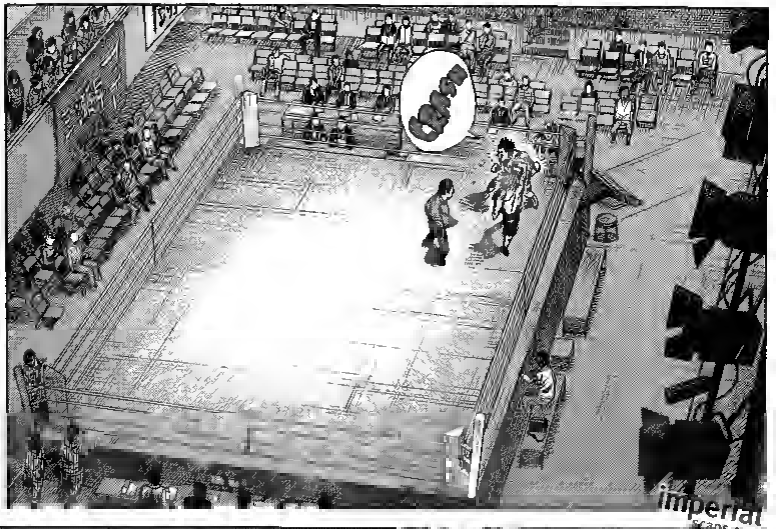
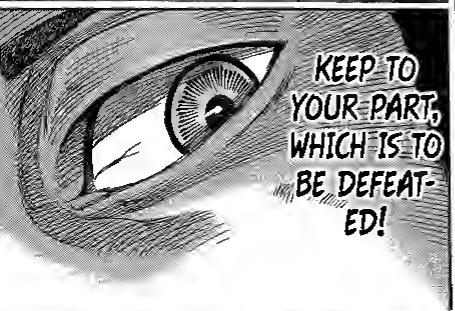

CLASH

NO ONE'S HOPING FOR YOU TO DO WELL HERE.
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING? HEY...

!!!


KEEP TO YOUR PART, WHICH IS TO BE DEFEAT-ED!

TSUBASA
RIKU
RIKU

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17 YEARS OF LIFE BELIEVING HE WAS "A CHOSEN ONE".

EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE, NO MATTER WHAT I DID, I COULD DO IT BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

CHAPTER 22: BEING ABLE TO FIGHT BACK

リバウ

RIKUBU

TOSHIMITSU MATSUBARA

VOLUME 1 IS SELLING LIKE HOT-CAKES!

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HOW LAUGH-ABLE...
YOU ALL RIGHT?

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I WANTED TO SEE SUCH SAD FACES IN ANY COMPETITION IMAGINABLE. AND CAME OUT VICTORIOUS MANY TIMES.

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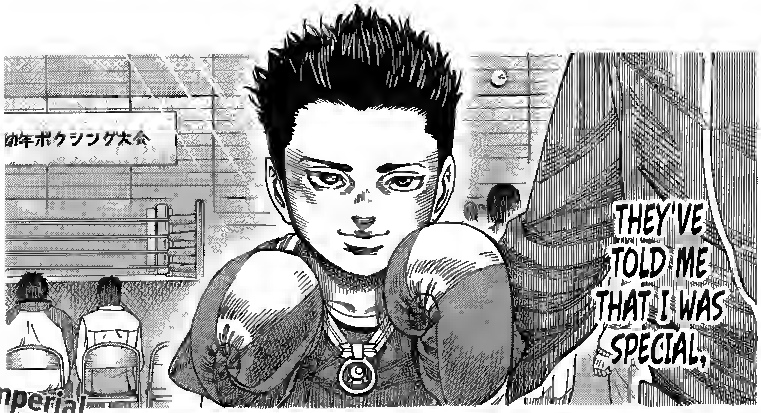

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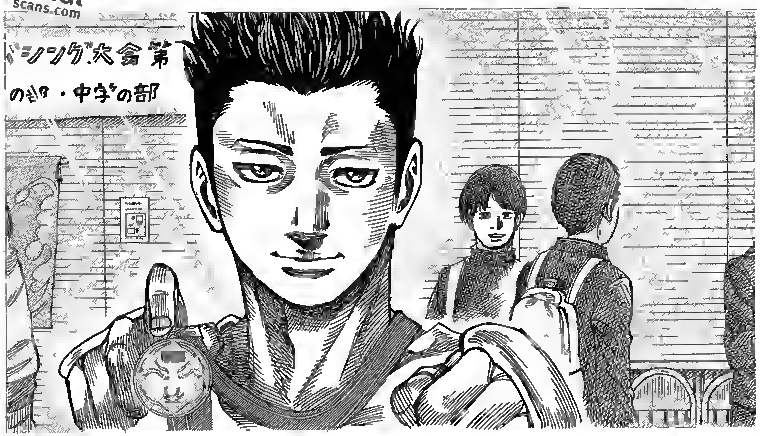

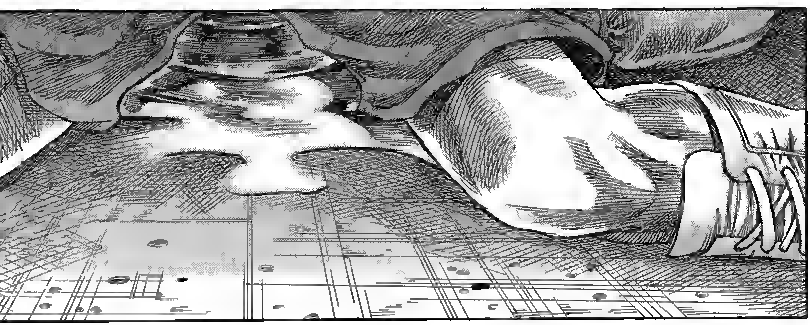

SO WHY AM I ALWAYS LOOKED DOWN UPON IN BOXING?

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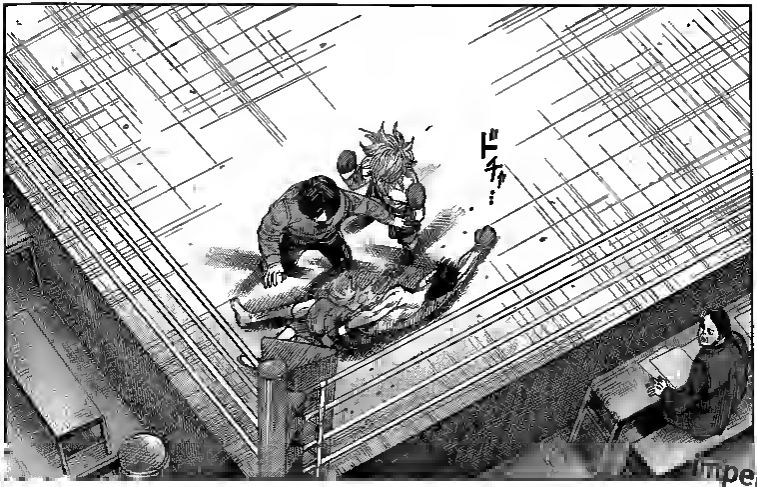

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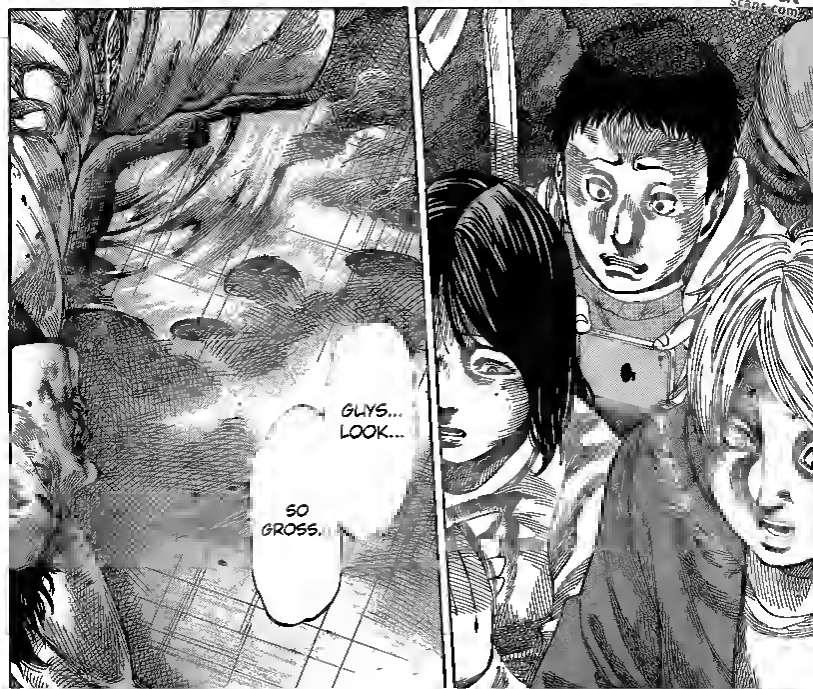

MISE HA-YA!!
REF-EREE STOP !!!!
HEY!!
CALL A STRET-CHER!!
TSUBA ...
SWP
SWP...
SWWP...
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imperial
scans.com
三瀬第二
2年2組
RIKU

SEE,
THINGS ENDED RIGHT AWAY WHEN YOU TURNED ON YOUR SWITCH, KID.
THE WINNER IS RIKU AZAMI IN THE BLUE CORNER.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON YOUR SECOND FIGHT?
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Scans.com
MADE ME THINK OF MY DAD.
THE MEMORIES ENGRAVED MY BODY...
GETTING PUNCHED MERCILESSLY WITH NO CHANCE TO FIGHT BACK...

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scans.com

WEST
imperial
scans.com
I-CAN FIGHT BACK NOW.
IT'S FINE ALREADY...
DAD...

KID.
IT'S ALSO A PRO'S JOB TO PROVIDE SOME FAN SERVICE.
WAVE YOUR HAND AT THOSE PEOPLE, YOUR CLASSMATES THAT WERE REALLY NOISY DURING THE FIGHT.
HEH HEH HEH
三瀬早 ファイト
2年2組
ファイト 早瀬三

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I'LL BE TRAINING HERE IN THE USA UNTIL FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR. I'M LEAVING THE REGISTRATION TO THE ROOKIE KING TOURNAMENT UP TO YOU, OK?

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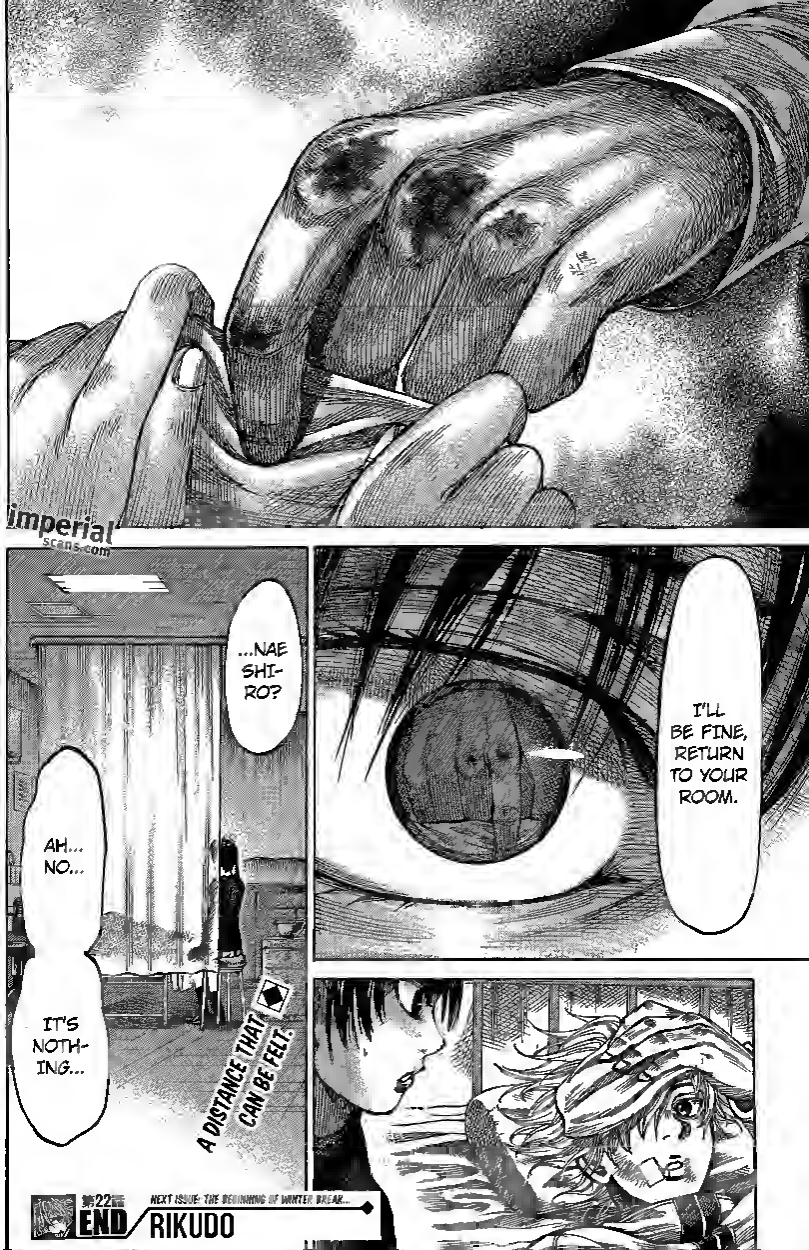
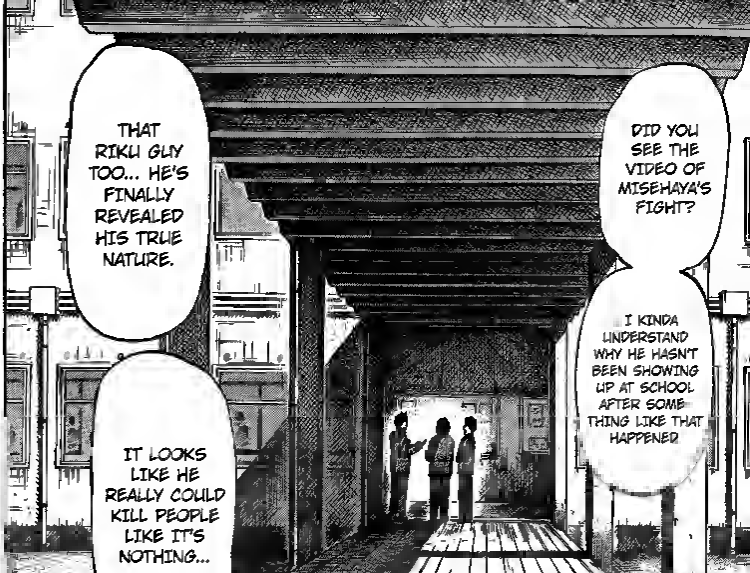

imperial scans.com
I'LL BE FINE, RETURN TO YOUR ROOM.
...NAE SHI-RO?
AH... NO...
IT'S NOTH-ING...
A DISTANCE THAT CAN BE FELT.


DID YOU SEE THE VIDEO OF MISEHAYA'S FIGHT?
I KINDA UNDERSTAND WHY HE HASN'T BEEN SHOWING UP AT SCHOOL AFTER SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED
THAT RIKU GUY TOO... HE'S FINALLY REVEALED HIS TRUE NATURE.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE REALLY COULD KILL PEOPLE LIKE IT'S NOTHING...
CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
[RIKUDO]

WHAT'S THE COLOR OF HIS BLOOD?
HECK IS HE EVEN HUMAN?
JUST WHAT KIND OF PARENTS MUST YOU'VE COME FROM TO BECOME LIKE THAT
RIKU
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WINTER BREAK BEGINS WITH RUMORS OF EIKU AND MISEHAYA'S FIGHT GOING AROUND. THE SCHOOLMATES AREN'T HIDING THEIR BEWILDERMENT.

リク
RIKU

CHAPTER 23:
THE GAZES OF THE SURROUNDING

THE DISTANCE FROM THE SURROUNDINGS, GREATER THAN BEFORE.

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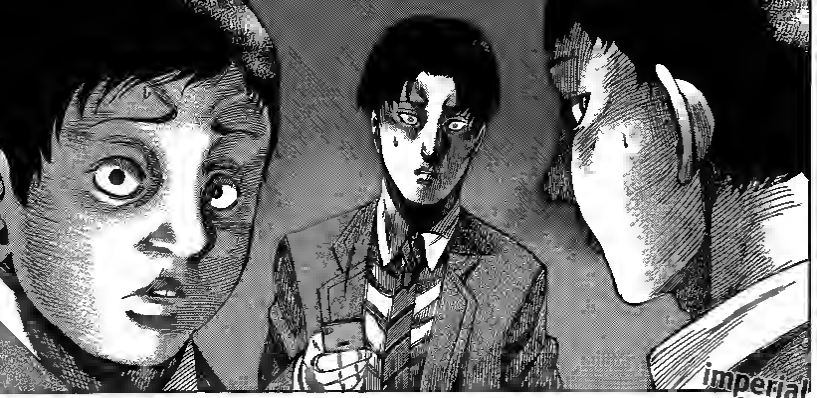
TOSHIMITSU MATSUSHIMA

MASAHIRO

GREATLY POPULAR AND WELL RECEIVED! RIKU AZAMI'S BOXING PATH, COMING STRAIGHT FROM THE SOUL!!



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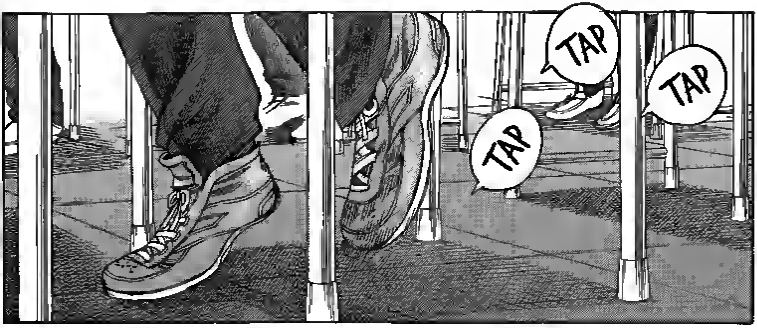
scans.com

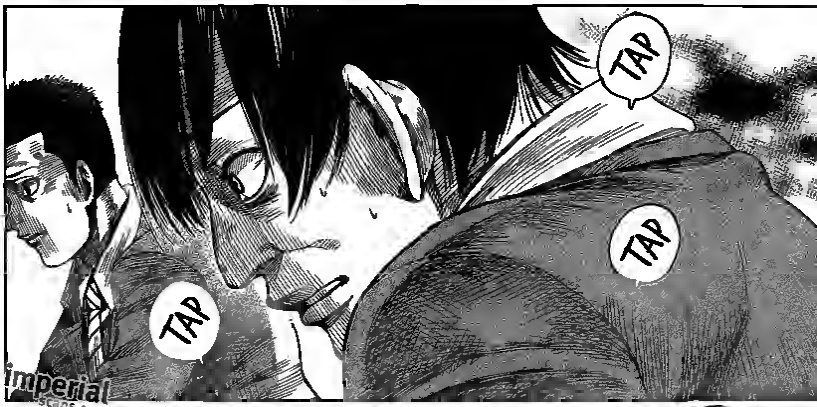
IS THAT SERIES STILL PUBLISHED ANYWAY?
THE NEW VOLUME WILL BE COMING OUT THIS MONTH, JANUARY, RIGHT?
SHADDAP
WE'LL SOON BE 3RD YEARS
AIN'T THIS MOVIE FUNNY?
SAMI...

HE GOT A PART-TIME JOB THEN DISAP-PEARED.
GULP
YOU KNOW WHAT?
HIROSHI'S GOT AN AWESOME FETISH.
SHIVER
SHIVER
IT'S THE SAME ATMO-SPHERE AS ALWAYS.
NOBODY IS TALKING ABOUT
THE FACT THAT MISEHAYA TRANS-FERRED...

ASIDE
FROM THEIR EYES...
imperial scans.com
THESE ARE...
THE EYES THEY LOOK AT ME WITH...

THE VERY SAME EYES
THEY LOOK AT RIKU WITH...
imperial scans.com
2－1
ガラ
TAKE YOUR SEATS.





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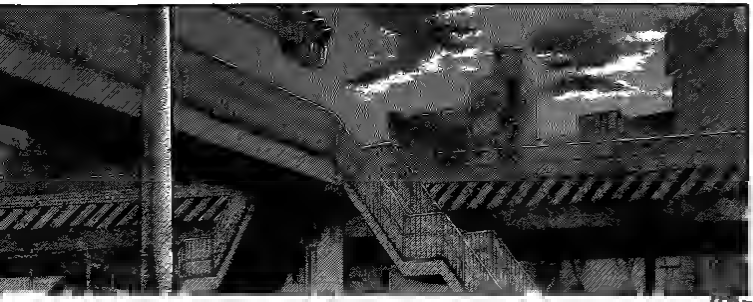

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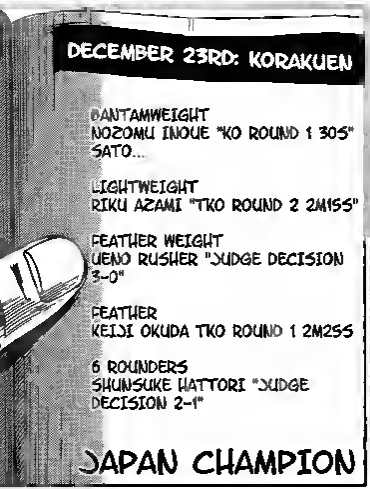
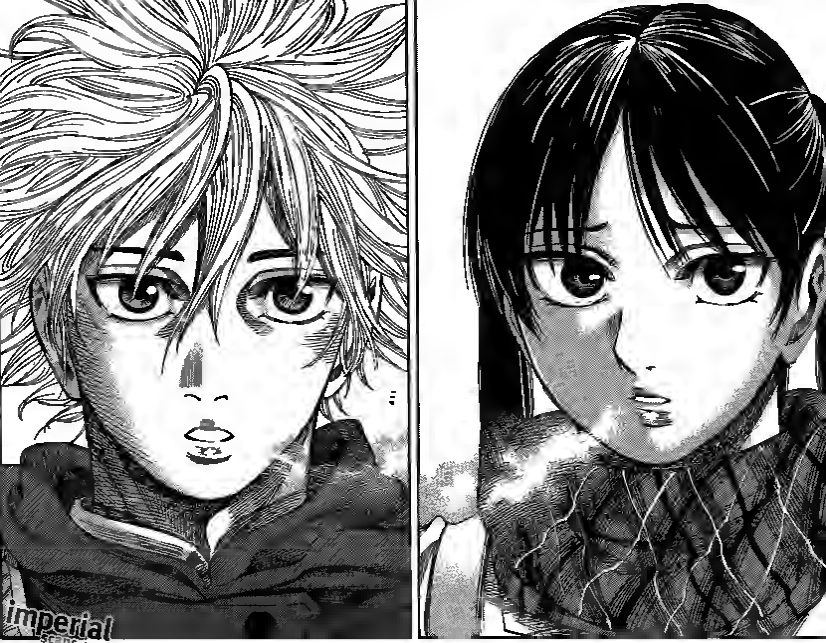


DESPITE HAVING NO BLOOD CONNEC-TION...
I GUESS THAT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, I REGARDED HIM AS A REPLACEMENT FOR MY FATHER...
imperial-scans.com
!
NAESHIRO.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scans.com

HE'S FINALLY REVEALED HIS TRUE NATURE
IT LOOKS LIKE HE REALLY COULD KILL PEOPLE LIKE IT'S NOTHING
CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
!!

I'M SORRY... RIKU.
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING BACK TO THEM...
HUH?
imperial scans.com
EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY FOR A MOMENT... I LOOKED AT RIKU WITH THE SAME EYES EVERYONE LOOKS AT HIM WITH...

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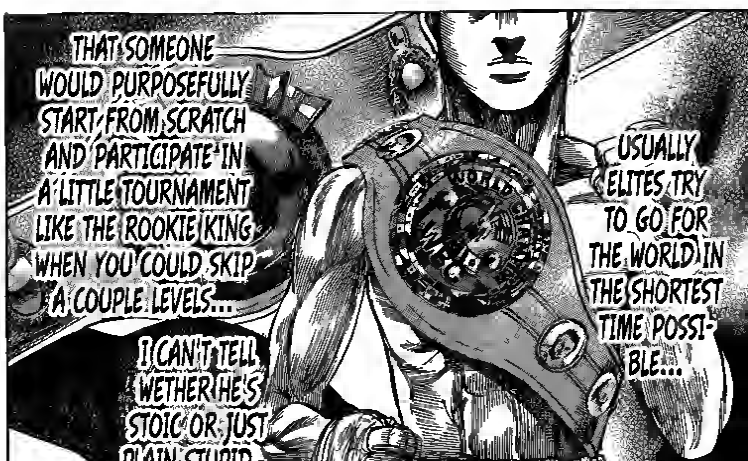
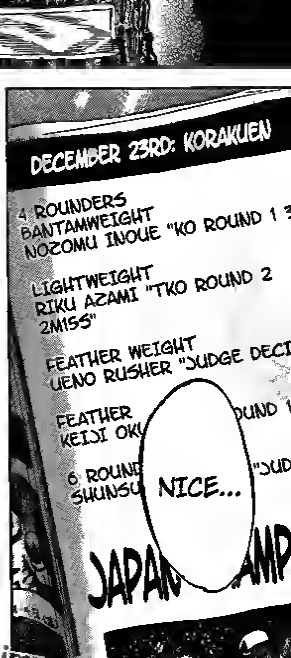

THAT SOMEONE WOULD PURPOSEFULLY START FROM SCRATCH AND PARTICIPATE IN A LITTLE TOURNAMENT LIKE THE ROOKIE KING WHEN YOU COULD SKIP A COUPLE LEVELS...
I CAN'T TELL WETHER HE'S STOIC OR JUST PLAIN STUPID...
USUALLY ELITES TRY TO GO FOR THE WORLD IN THE SHORTEST TIME POSSI-BLE...

YOUR FATHERS WERE DIFFERENT LIKE DAY AND NIGHT, BUT YOU TWO RESEMBLE EACH OTHER IN HOW YOU ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM YOUR FATHERS...



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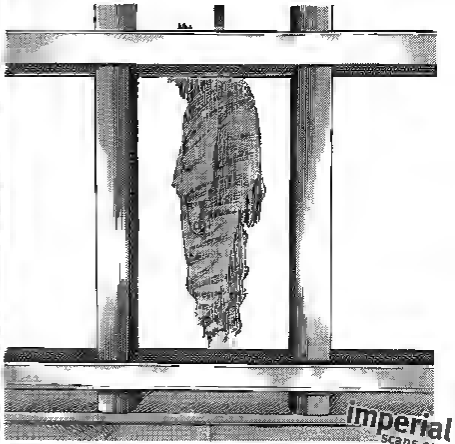
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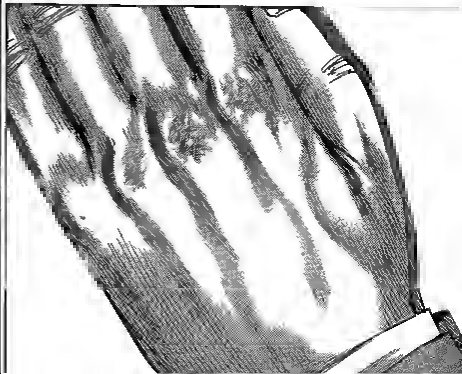

imperial-scans.com
HE'S GETTING HIMSELF HYPED UP TO WIN THE ROOKIE KING!
...THE ROOKIE KING
LET'S WIN...
第23話 END
RIKUDO

imperial scans.com

THE EAST JAPAN ROOKIE KING NEARS AS SNOW FALLS. RIKU'S IN THE MIDDLE OF ROADWORK.

CHAPTER 24: MUGIS

リク

RIKUDO

TOSHIMITSU MATSUBARA

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VOLUME 1 IS SELLING LIKE HOT-CAKES!

NNH
AH...
NGH
HAH
HAH
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scans.com
TOMOR-
ROW...
LET'S
DO IT
IN THE
CLUB...
OK?
UNTIL
WE'RE
AT THE
CLUB...
Hah
Hah Hah
M-MY
MOUTH...
It hurts
Took
WAIT...
HAH
HAH
I'M
TELLING
YOU TO
WAIT.

I CAN'T DO THAT!!
HUFF
WAIT!! YOU'RE TOO DRUNK!!
THIS IS BAD!
I'M TELLING YOU TO STOP!!
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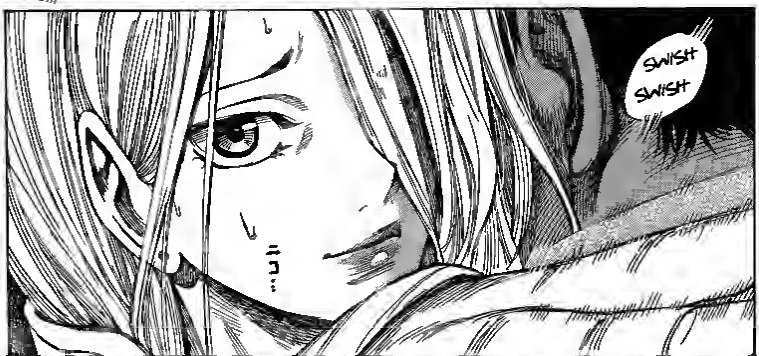
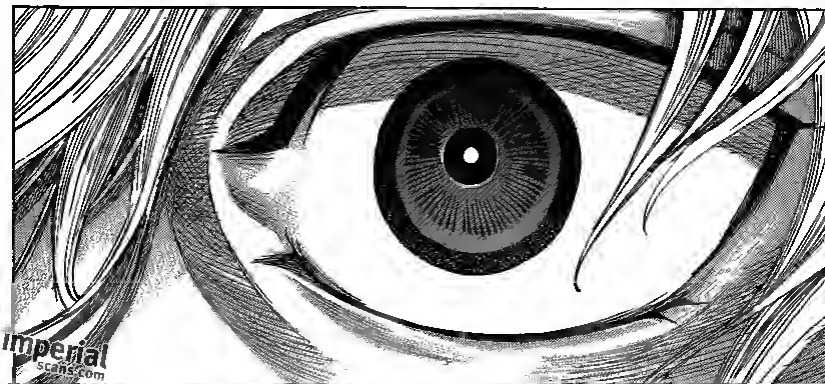
SWISH
SWISH
imperial
scans.com

Imperial
scans.com


I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME THOUGH..
...IN ONE PUNCH... AWE-SOME...
HM?
THEN, WHAT DID YOU PLAN TO IF I HADN'T?

IF HE CONTINUED, MISS YOU'D BE...
.....
imperi
scans.com
.....
I WOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL HE FINISHED HIS WORK.
.....
STILL, I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE ARE CUTE KIDS LIKE YOU WHO ARE BOXERS NOWADAYS...



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imperial
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D-
DROOL

ドゴ
imperial
scans.com
ズ"…
"FFF
A-
AGH!!
HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF..

HAH
HAH
HUH? DID THAT NOT MAKE YOU HAPPY? THAT WAS MY WAY OF THANKING YOU.
...AH... WAS THAT YOUR FIRST KISS? SORRY...
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BUT THAT SURE HURT MY FEELINGS, FOR YOU TO BE SCARED OF ME LIKE THAT...
DID YOU HAVE A BAD EXPERIENCE WITH SEX BEFORE?
Just kidding
GO... AND THANK YOU. I'LL COME UP WITH AN EXCUSE, LIKE SELF-DEFENSE OR SOMETHING.
AH RIGHT. DON'T FORGET TO RINSE YOUR MOUTH; I MIGHT'VE TRANSFERRED SOME OF THAT OLD MAN'S SALIVA TO YOU.
Hah Hah Hah Hah.
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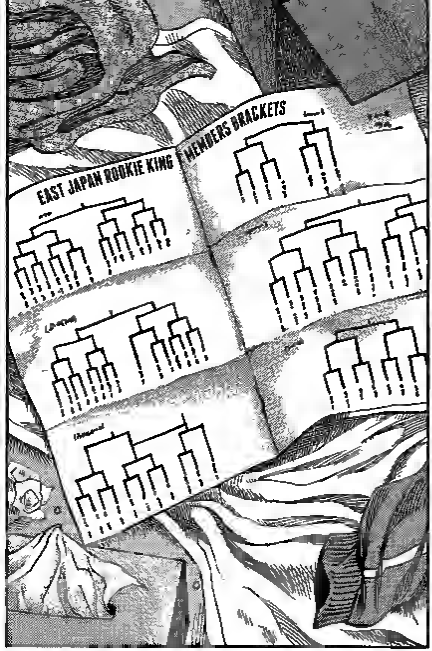
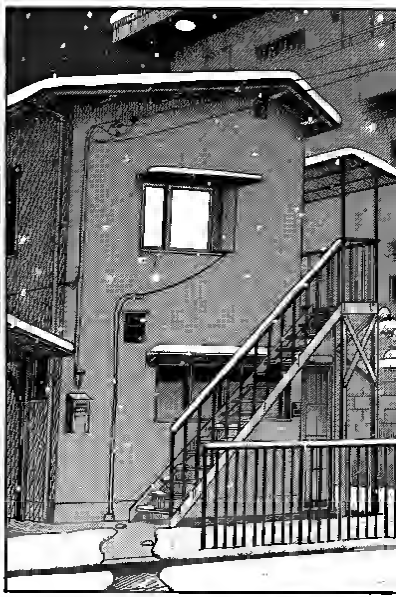
...SA-LIVA...
SOMEONE ELSE'S SALIVA...
INSIDE MY MOUTH...





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ARE YOU PARTICI-PATING IN THE ROOKIE KING?
TSUWA-BUKI.
I HEARD YOU DID KICK BOXING BEFORE SO WHY THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART?
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YOU'VE GOT NO TIME TO MAKE MONEY BUT GOT TIME TO PLAY AROUND?
You listenin'?
HEY, BEARD-LESS.

AN ROOKIE KING
HMPH ...
KOJI TSUWA-BUKI
Tsumugi Gym
RIKU AZAMI
Baba Gym
YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN IF I CLIMB TO THE TOP.
THERE IS NO BOXING (WORLD) IN WHICH FISTS ARE OUR ONLY WEAPONS
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KOJI TSUWA-BUKI
RIKU AZAMI

IS HE A FAN OF BOXING TECHNIQUES?
...YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF WITH BOXING AFTER TAKING AWAY THE KICK PART.
BUT A PUNCH THAT IS MADE TO HELP A KICK CONNECT IS DIFFERENT FROM A PUNCH IN BOXING..
INDEED, YOU HAVE MANY KICKS THAT USE ALL KINDS OF PARTS IN YOUR BODY AND ONES THAT ARE THREE TIMES AS STRONG AS PUNCHES.
LET'S SEE...
WHAT WILL BE LEFT IF YOU TAKE AWAY THE BOXING PART TOO?
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NEXT ISSUE: TSUBURAZAWA FACES RIKU'S NEXT OPPONENT?!

ROOKIE KING IN MIND...
SHI!!
SHI-
SHI!!
キ!
キーキュ
CHAPTER 25: SHADOW COACH
リカバリー
Rikubo
THE NEARING
STORMIN' REACTIONS
VOLUME 1 IS SELLING LIKE HOT-CAKES!
SPIRITED FIRST SERIES!!
TOSHIMITSU MATSUBARA
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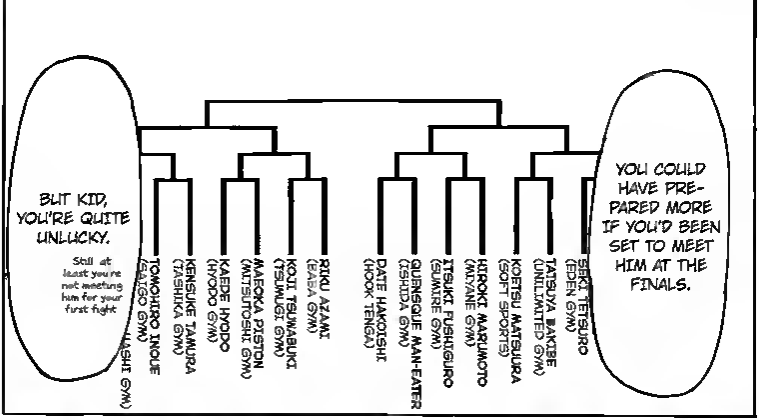
IT'S LIKE SHE WAS ABOUT TO SWALLOW ME...
...THAT WOMAN... WHAT THE HECK WAS UP WITH HER?

REALLY IS OMI-NOUS...
SEX...

KID.
I'VE GOT THE BALLOTS FOR THE TOURNA-MENT.

FORGET IT! I SHOULD FOCUS ON THE ROOKIE KING.

YOU'LL FACE HYODO ON YOUR SECOND FIGHT.
...HUH ...?
BG: HYODO
出動


YOU COULD HAVE PREPARED MORE IF YOU'D BEEN SET TO MEET HIM AT THE FINALS.
SEIKI TETSUNO (EDEN GYM)
TATSUYA BAKIBE (UNLIMITED GYM)
KOETSU MATSUURA (SOFT SPORTS)
HIROKI MARUMOTO (MIYANE GYM)
ITSUKI FUSHIGURO (SUMIRE GYM)
QUINSQUE MAN-EATER (TSHUDA GYM)
DATE HAKOTSHI (HOOK TENGA)
KIKU AZAMI (EASA GYM)
KOJI TSUWABUKI (TSUMUGI GYM)
MAEOKA PISTON (MITSUTOSHI GYM)
KAEDE HYODO (HYODO GYM)
KENSUKE TAMURA (TASHIKA GYM)
TOMOHIRO INOUE (SAIGO GYM)
BUT KID, YOU'RE QUITE UNLUCKY.
Still at least you're not meeting him for your first fight
(ASHI GYM)

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KOJI TSUWABUKI, FORMERLY RANKED 6TH AS A LIGHTWEIGHT KICKBOXER.
HE'S GOTTEN 3 WINS IN 3 FIGHTS, ALL BY KO. HE'S STILL PRETTY INEXPERIENCED SINCE HE'S JUST MOVED TO BOXING, AND PACKS QUITE THE PUNCH BUT... LOOKS LIKE HE CAN'T GET HIMSELF OFF FROM THE STYLE OF KICKBOXING.

WITHOUT PROPER COACHING,
IT'S NO EASY THING TO BECOME SKILLED AT FIGHTING IN A DIFFERENT MARTIAL ART.

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WOOPS.
I GAVE THE FINISHING BLOW OVER-ENTHUSI-ASTICALLY.
You alive?

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES... HE'S STILL STANDING AFTER TAKING MR TOKORO-ZAWA'S KNOCKOUT PUNCH...

YOU MUST BE A FORMER BOXER AND QUITE THE RANKER TOO
...IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING SUCH AN EFFICIENT PUNCH SINCE MOVING TO BOXING...
.....
YOUR MOVEMENTS AREN'T COMPACT ENOUGH AND YOU'RE SO-SO WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTING YOUR CHIN WITH YOUR SHOULDER AFTER YOUR SWINGS.
BUT LIKE I SAID A JAB IN BOXING WHICH RELIES ONLY ON FISTS AND A JAB IN KICK-BOXING USED TO CONNECT KICKS ARE NOT THE SAME.
YOU'RE NOT CONNECTING PROPERLY.
.....
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CLICK
LET'S GO TO THE NEXT ONE.
YES, SIR
WH—
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...?
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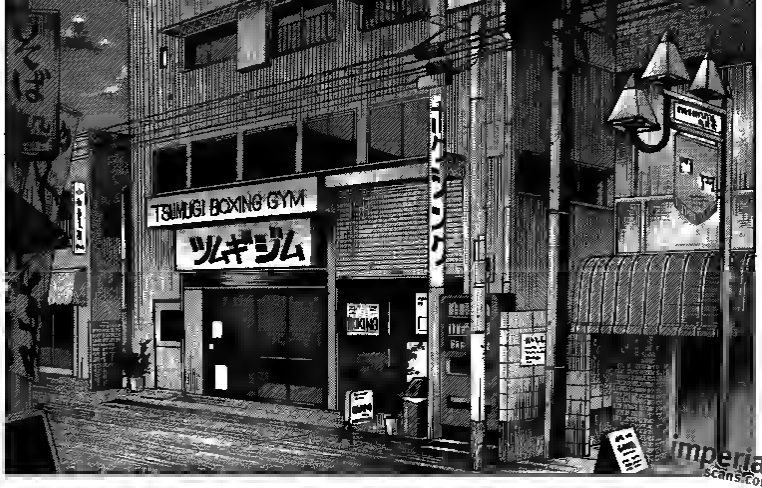
I'LL GO TO COLLECT SOME BILLS AGAIN.
YOUR PUNCHES BETTER HAVE IMPROVED BY THEN.



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HE TOOK OVER HIS PARENTS DEBTS AND IS AIMING TO MAKE IT BIG WITH BOXING, RIGHT? BUT HE'S GOT NO TIME TO BE DOING THAT!
HE SHOULD'VE LEARNED HIS LESSON WITH KICKBOXING.

THAT FACE.
D'YOU THINK THAT'S FROM AN ACCIDENT AT WORK?
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RAAARGH!!
CHAIR-MAN?
OH, SORRY.

HE DEBUTED ONE YEAR AGO... YET HE SUDDENLY FIXED THE PLACES HE'D BEEN UNABLE TO UP TO NOW?
THE GAPS FROM HABITS ACQUIRED DURING KICK-BOXING ARE ALSO GONE.
THE WASTE IN THE TRANSITIONS BETWEEN HIS PUNCHES IS GONE...
SURE..
...THAT WOUND... JUST WHAT IS HE DOING?
I'M TAKING THE DVD OF MY OPPONENT FOR THE FIRST MATCH.
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THAT'S SIXTY THOU-SAND!
FU
FU
FU

I'LL COME AGAIN TSUWABUKI.
IT'S USELESS IF I CAN READ YOUR MOVEMENTS.
YOU'D BE INSTANTLY KILLED BY AN OPPONENT OF C-CLASS OR ABOVE WITH THAT.
カラ…
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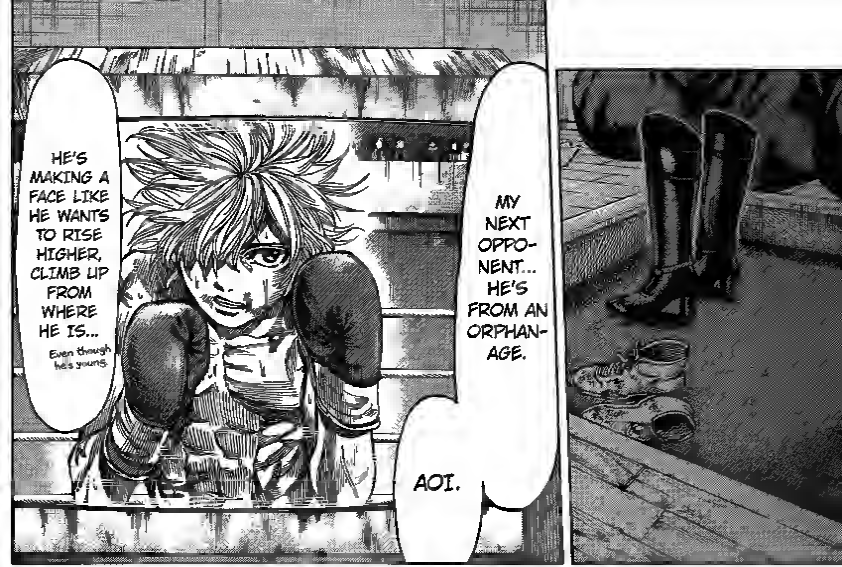
HE'S MAKING A FACE LIKE HE WANTS TO RISE HIGHER, CLIMB UP FROM WHERE HE IS...
Even though he's young
AOI.
MY NEXT OPPONENT... HE'S FROM AN ORPHANAGE.

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A MAN, SLEEPING PEACEFULLY.
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VERY RARELY DO YOU SEE MR TOKOROZAWA SLEEPING IN FRONT OF OTHERS
HE'S TIRED – HE'S BEEN PRETTY WILD LATELY AFTER ALL
HE'S BEEN GOING OVER-BOARD WITH BILL COLLECT-ING AT TSUWA-BUKI'S PLACE
[RIKUDO]

TRAIN, TRAIN, TRAIN AND TRAIN WITH NO BOUNDS.

EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT THE SORT OF PERSON WHO'D FIGHT PEOPLE UNINVOLVED WITH THE YAKUZA...
RAAR GH!!
VOL.1 IS NOW ON SALE!!
EXPERIENCE RIKU AZAMI'S WAY OF LIFE, A STORY ABOUT BOXING AND GUTS!!
SPIRITED FIRST SERIES!!
TOSHIMITSU MATSUBARA
CHAPTER 26: HIDDEN TRAINING
RIKUDO

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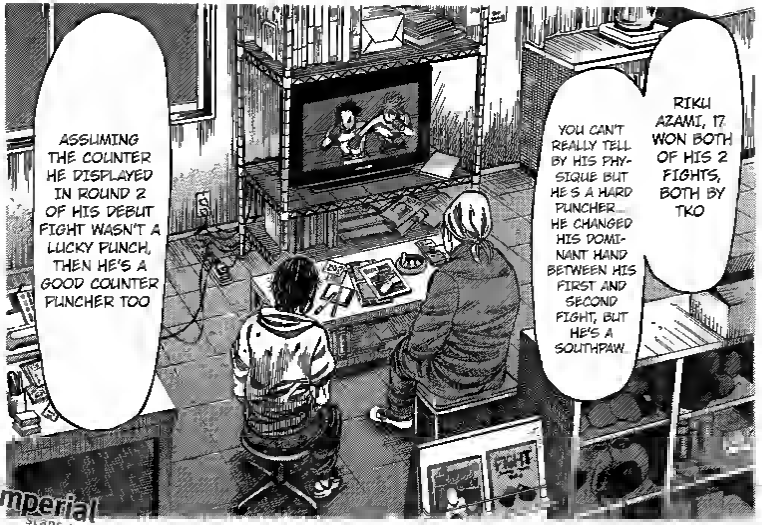
RIKU AZAMI, 17 WON BOTH OF HIS 2 FIGHTS, BOTH BY TKO
YOU CAN'T REALLY TELL BY HIS PHYSIQUE BUT HE'S A HARD PUNCHER... HE CHANGED HIS DOMINANT HAND BETWEEN HIS FIRST AND SECOND FIGHT, BUT HE'S A SOUTHPAW.
ASSUMING THE COUNTER HE DISPLAYED IN ROUND 2 OF HIS DEBUT FIGHT WASN'T A LUCKY PUNCH, THEN HE'S A GOOD COUNTER PUNCHER TOO

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THERE ARE SOME PRETTY UNCERTAIN FACTORS, BUT AT A GLANCE, I'D SAY HE CAN DISPLAY SOME HIGH-END TECHNIQUES.
ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN THOUGH, HYODO HAS HIS EYES ON HIM.
RIKU

SO HE'S A COUNTER PUNCHER?
YOUR CONNECTIONS ARE SLOPPY. D'YOU WANNA GET HIT BY A COUNTER THAT MUCH?
Ehh!
IT MIGHT JUST BE A COINCI-DENCE...
BUT THAT DUDE THAT COMES TO COLLECT THE BILLS GAVE ME SOME HOMEWORK TO DO...
IT HAPPENS TO BE A PERFECT MATCH FOR THIS FIGHT.
WHAT A STRANGE FEELING.
HEY, TSUWABUKI.
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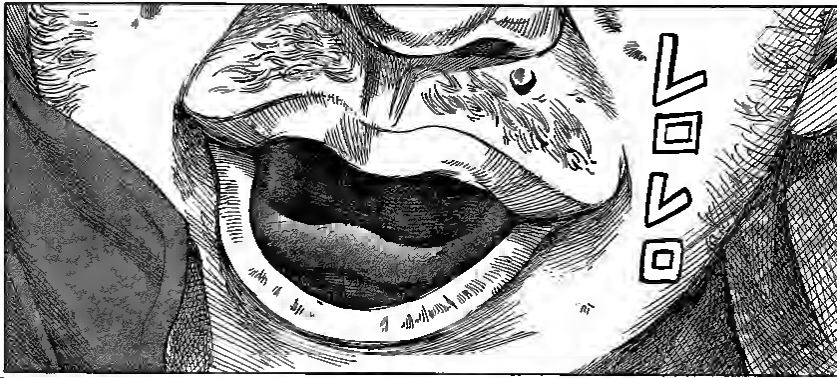

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WELL, MAYBE SHE SLICKED ME TOO HARD?
ヒャヒャヒャ
SURE, I'LL TELL HER.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE DECIDED TO GO FOR RENA.
SHE'S BEEN WORKING LESS THESE DAYS SO SHE'S KINDA HARD TO GET A HOLD OF NOW
SHE'S THE BEST TO GET INTO A LIGHT MOOD
ヒャハハハハ
TSUWABUKI GO GET 3 COFFEES
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scans.com

AH, MAKE IT 4.
You better hurry
LIIICKY LICKY
YOU'RE TOO LOUD, MR. BUN
ヒャ!!!!
.....
YES, UNDER-STOOD.

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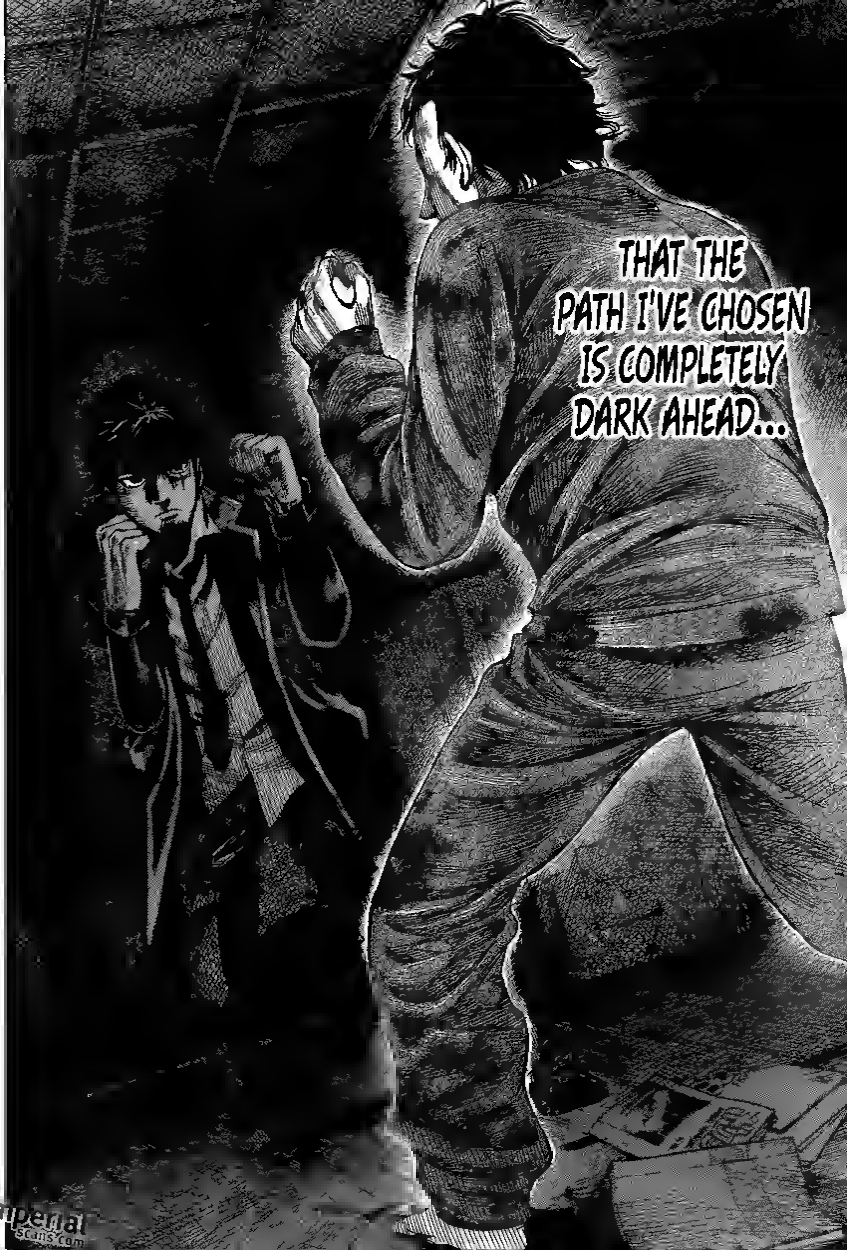
imperial scans.com

TODAY ISN'T THE DAY I REPAY WHAT I OWE YOUR COMPANY, RIGHT?
THERE WASN'T ENOUGH. I CAME TO COLLECT THE INTERESTS.
imperial scans.com
KOJI, YOU HAVE YOUR FIRST FIGHT IN THE ROOKIE KING TOURNAMENT SOON, RIGHT?
GETTING HURT AGAIN WILL AFFECT YOUR FIGHT.

HEH HEH THERE IS ONE THING I HAVEN'T BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION YET.
WELL
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A BOXER BURSTING INTO TEARS JUST BECAUSE HE WAS ASSAULTED.
HOW MANY DAYS DOES IT MAKE NOW?
.....
HOW MANY TIMES HAS HE KNOCKED ME DOWN ALREADY?
...DAMN IT...
HE MADE ME REALIZE THAT THERE ARE MONSTERS LIKE HIM IN THE TOP RANKINGS... THAT IN TRUTH, THAT THERE ARE EVEN MORE POWERFUL BOXERS OUT THERE...



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DAMN YOU... I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT!
AND THIS SHIT I'M IN TOO!
AND ALSO ME, WHO HAS NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO RELY ON AOI'S EARNINGS!!
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I'LL BREAK OUT OF THIS ALL!

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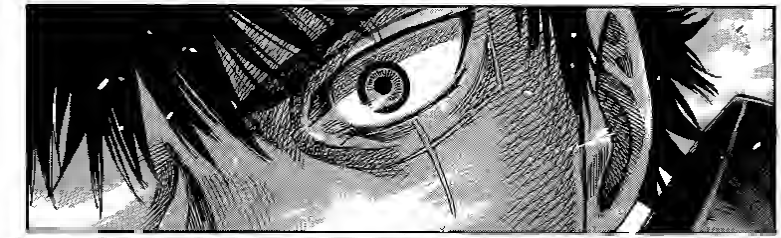

NEXT ISSUE
AT LAST, THE FIGHT BETWEEN KIRU AND TSUKASA BEGINS...!

26 END / RIKUDO

DEVOTING ALL HIS TIME TO HIS FISTS: RIKU AZAMI'S BOXING STORY!

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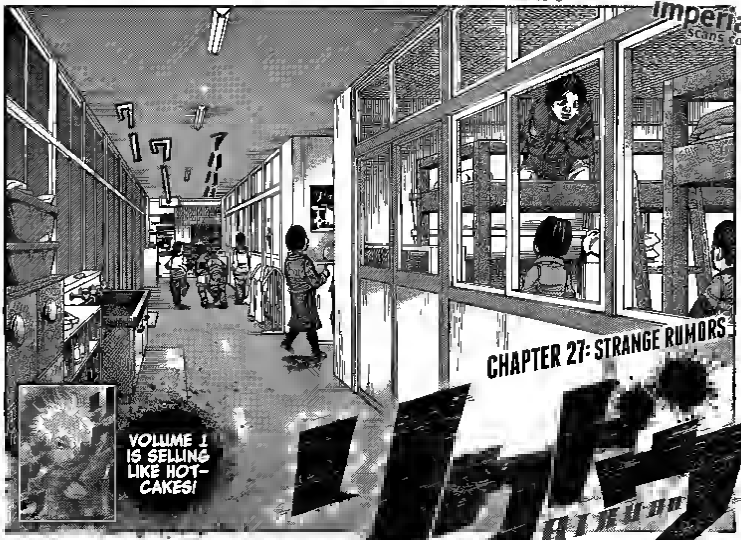
THE HONEST FACE THAT RIKU SHOWS AT THE ORPHANAGE...



CHAPTER 27: STRANGE RUMORS

リク

RIKU

SPIRITED FIRST SERIES!!

TOSHIMITSU MATSUBARA

THANKS
AYUMU
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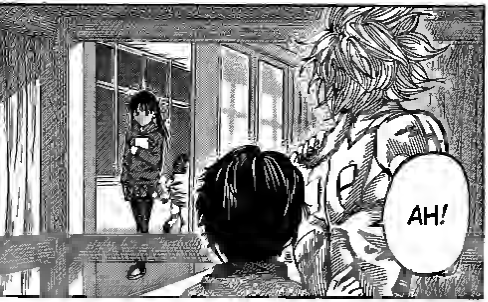
SO YOU CAN HURT YOUR BACK TOO WHEN BOXING?
YEAH, A LITTLE BIT DURING TRAINING... THE MATS AT THE GYM ARE PRETTY THIN, YOU SEE...


AH!

SOMEHOW, IT SEEMS YOU'RE GETTING HURT MORE AND MORE...

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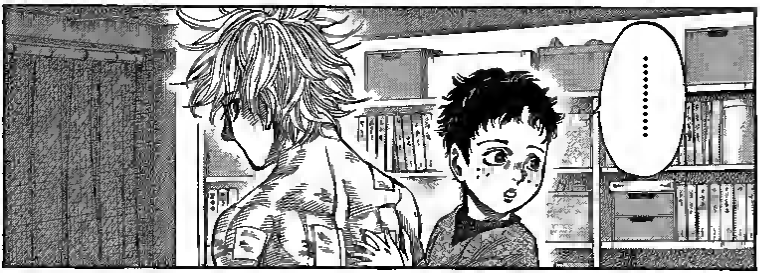
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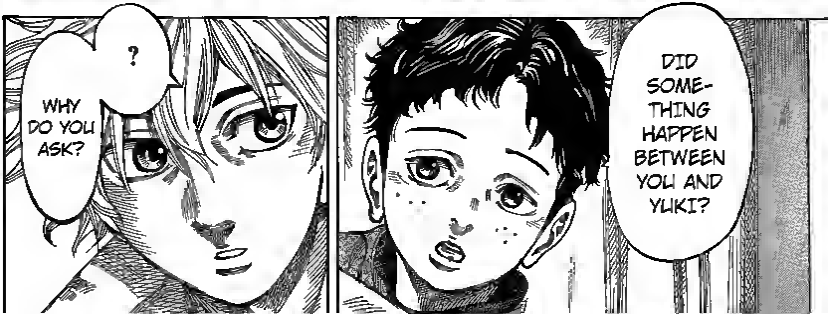
?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND YUKI?

YUKI,
EVEN THOUGH SHE LIKES YOU...
HAS BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY.
...HUH? SHE... LIKES ME?
YEAH THAT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS. AND HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE RUMORS?
PROSPECTIVE FOSTER PARENTS CAME SO SHE COULD BE ADOPTED LIKE OTHER PEOPLE HER AGE BUT...

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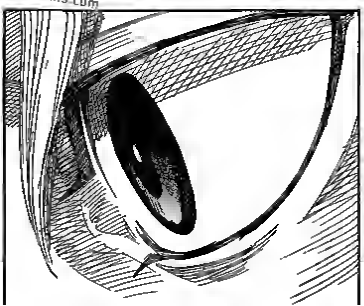

SHE REJECTED ALL OF THEM.
THE GIRLS HAVE BEEN RUMORING THAT SHE REJECTED THEM ALL BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU.

IT MUST BE A MISUNDER-STANDING... I KNOW IT.
SOME-THING LIKE THAT...
I'M SURE IT DOESN'T HOLD ANY MEANING EVEN FOR NAE-SHIRO HER-SELF...
PEOPLE CAN DO ANY-THING FOR THE SAKE OF THE PERSON THEY LOVE.
WELL THAT'S WHAT I OFTEN HEAR ON TV ANYWAY
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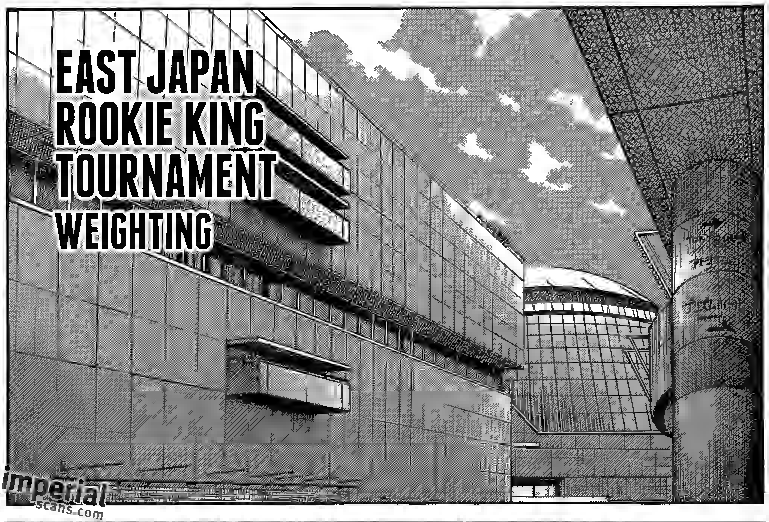

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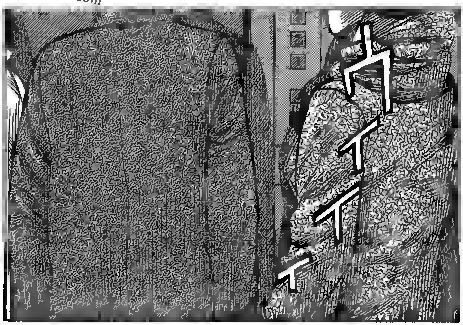

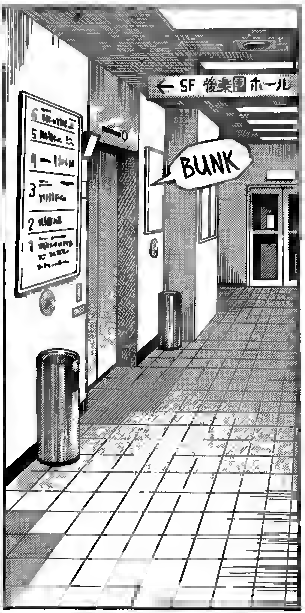

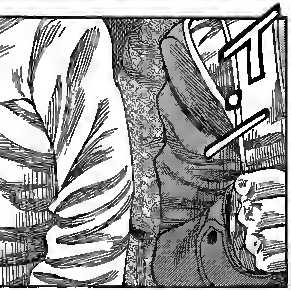

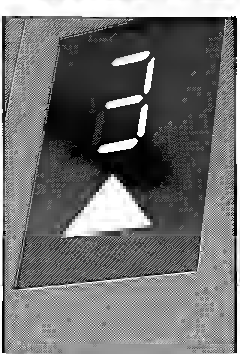

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…IMPRESSIVE…

THE MARKS OF FISTS…

HELLO,

MR. BABA.

カ…

カ…

カ…

株式

6F 財団法人

後楽

5F ホー

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, MR BABA.
SUP, TSUMUGI
I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING DIRTY LIKE THIS I JUST CAME BACK FROM WORK.
...HELLO, NICE TO MEET YOU.
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I'VE HEARD THE RUMORS ABOUT YOUR UPBRINGING AND I KNOW YOU'VE DEVOTED YOURSELF ENTIRELY TO BOXING, BUT...
RIKU AZAMI.

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I THOUGHT THIS FIGHT WOULD BE MORE ABOUT IN-FIGHTING. BUT IT MIGHT BE MORE SEVERE THAN THAT.
CAREFUL,
WEIGHT ROOM
HE...
KNOWS WHAT DEFEAT IS LIKE.
YES, SIR.
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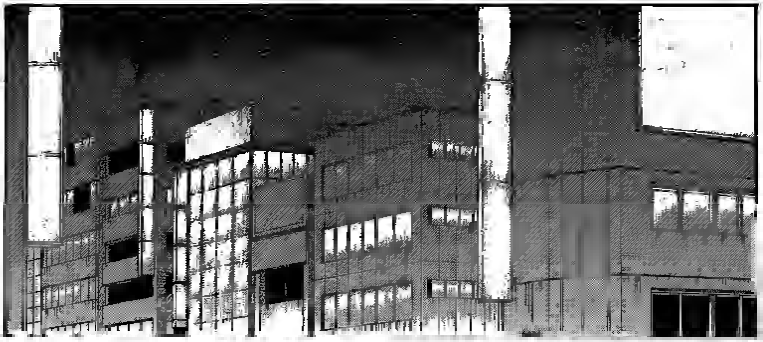

YESTERDAY... IN FRONT OF A CLIENT, SHE...
YOU KNOW WHAT, MR. TOKORO-ZAWA?
ABOUT TSUWABUKI'S CHICK, THAT WOMAN CALLED AOI WHO WORKS IN THE SEX INDUSTRY.

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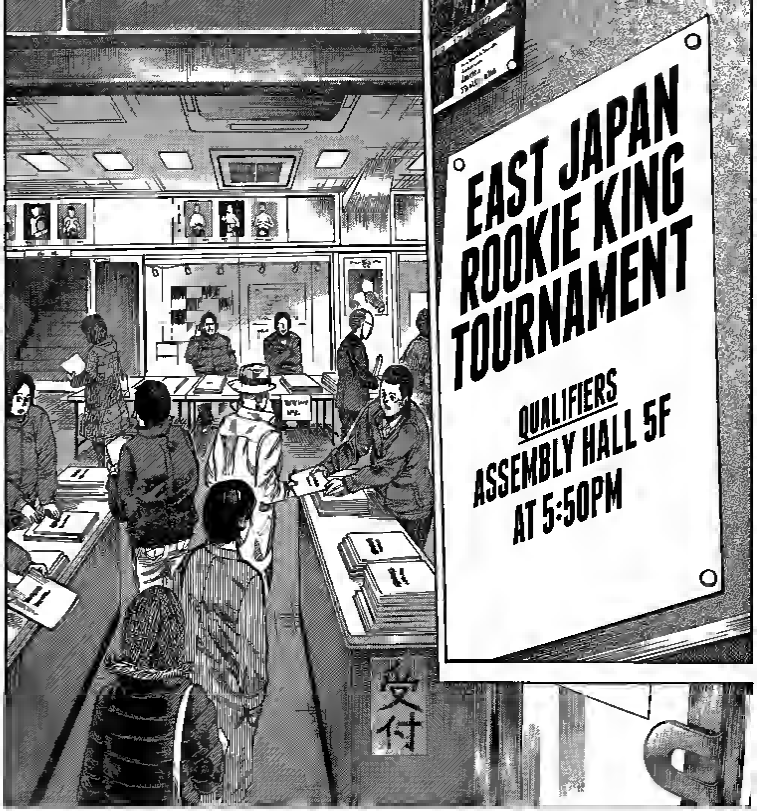
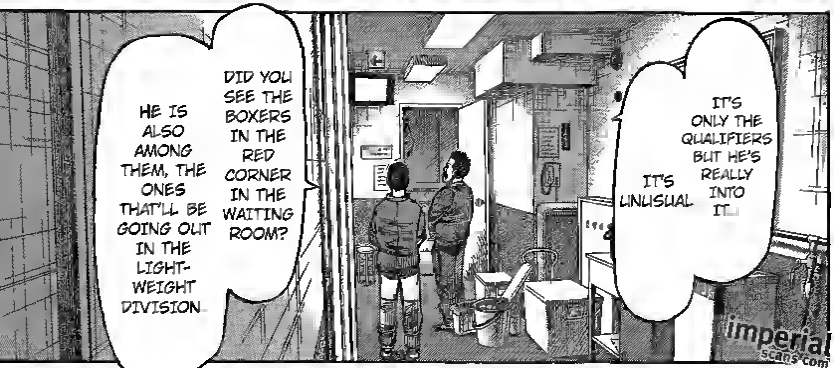
SORRY, KOJI...
SORRY FOR BEING SUCH A HINDRANCE...
A LIGHT THAT CAN'T BE SEEN.
NEXT ISSUE: CURTAIN RISE ON THE EAST JAPAN ROOKIE KING!
END
RIKUDO



◆SPRING: THE SEASON SIGNALING THE START OF THE ROOKIE KING TOURNAMENT.


IT'S UNUSUAL
IT'S ONLY THE QUALIFIERS BUT HE'S REALLY INTO IT...
DID YOU SEE THE BOXERS IN THE RED CORNER IN THE WAITING ROOM?
HE IS ALSO AMONG THEM, THE ONES THAT'LL BE GOING OUT IN THE LIGHT-WEIGHT DIVISION.

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[RIKUDO]

HYODO...
THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM, THEY'RE AMAZING...
NOT ONLY IS THERE A FORMER WORLD CHAMPION BUT ALSO SOMEONE WITH CONNECTIONS TO INFLUENTIAL PROMOTORS OVERSEAS.
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
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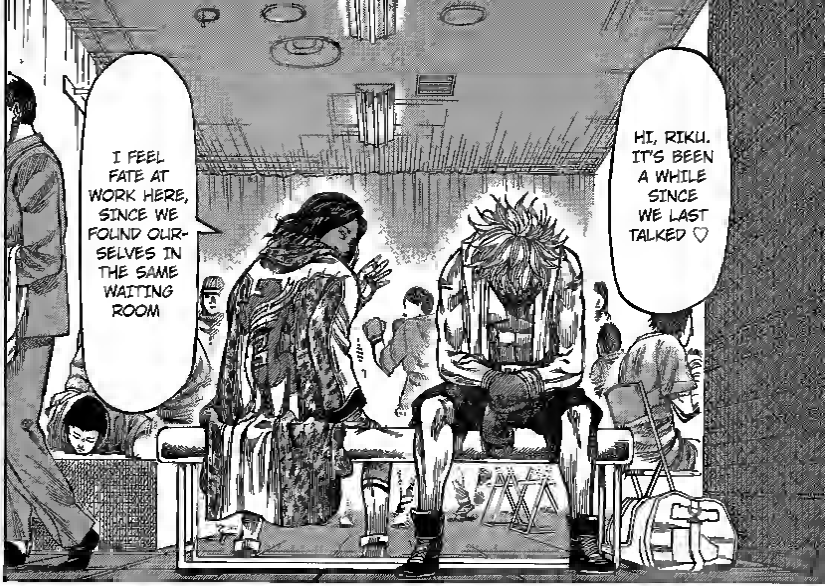
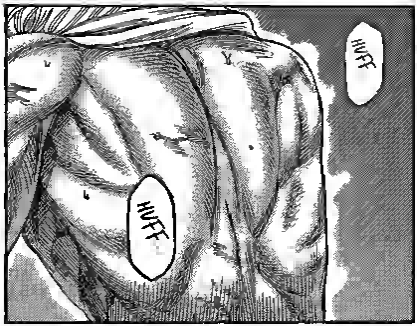
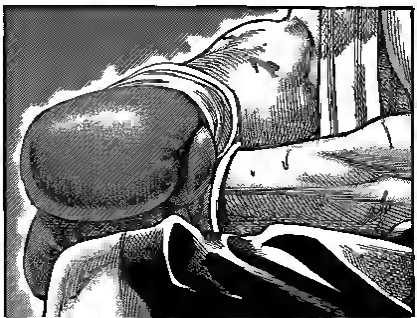
THE CRUCIAL MOMENT IS HERE, AND THEY SIT BACK TO BACK.
CHAPTER 20: FULL ROUND WAKE-UP
THE BRAND NEW VOLUME 2 WILL HIT THE SHELVES ON DECEMBER 19TH!
ロカカ
BLOOD
TOSHIMITSU MATSUBARA
GREATLY POPULAR AND WELL RECEIVED! A SPIRITED STORY SHOWCASING RIKU AZAMI'S WAY!







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PHEW—
HU-HUFF...
...TCH!
YOUR OPPONENT MUST BE A PRETTY DANGEROUS ONE IF YOU'RE BROODING THAT MUCH...
WE'RE FINALLY MEETING AGAIN AFTER ALL THIS TIME... BUT, WHAT A SHAME.

MAYBE EVEN MORE SO THAN YOU, WHO IS ALREADY THIS TASTY.
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YAWN..

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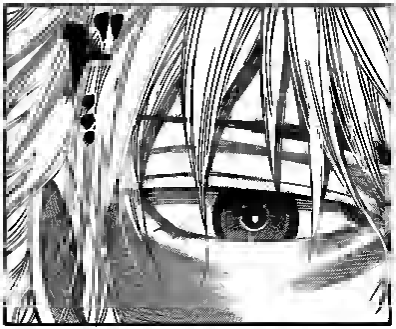

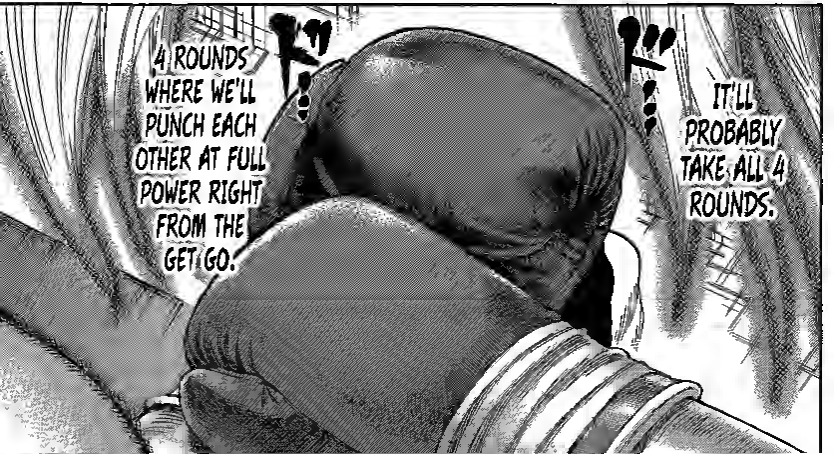

RARGH!
RARGH!
RARGH!
RARGH!
RARGH!
KOUJI
RAARG
H!

HUFF

……!

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

LET YOUR BODY GET SOME REST BEFORE THE FIGHT BUT DON'T LET IT GO COLD

…!

ALL RIGHT, TSUWABUKI.

SINCE BOXING IS ALL I HAVE LEFT...

AM I TRYING TO SUCCEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AOI? ...THAT'S AN EASYGOING WAY OF PUTTING IT.

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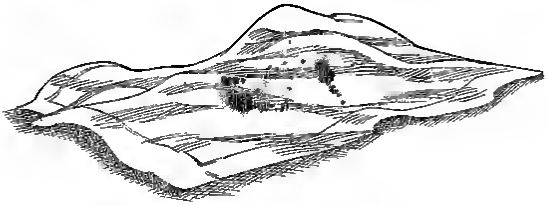

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I SEE... SO, HE'S NOT HERE.
.....
CAN'T BE HELPED I GUESS...
WELL THEN, I GUESS I'LL WAIT FOR HIM TO COME BACK
ARE YOU INTER-ESTED IN THE FIGHT?
MISTER FORMER OPBF WORLD CHAMPION
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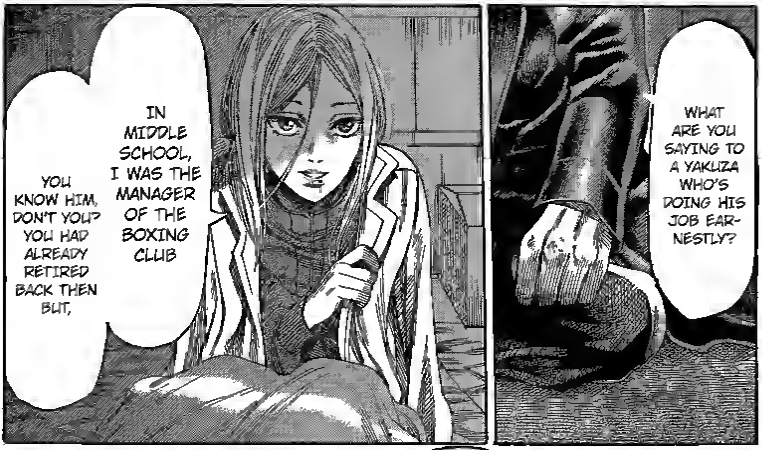
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO A YAKUZA WHO'S DOING HIS JOB EARNESTLY?
IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I WAS THE MANAGER OF THE BOXING CLUB
YOU KNOW HIM, DON'T YOU? YOU HAD ALREADY RETIRED BACK THEN BUT,

KOJI'S OPPONENT, HE'S YOUR JUNIOR AT YOUR GYM, RIGHT?

EAST JAPAN ROOKIE KING TOURNAMENT QUALIFIERS
北
NORTH
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
DID YOU TRAIN KOJI BECAUSE...
YOU HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST YOUR GYM AND WANTED TO SEND HIM AGAINST YOUR JUNIOR?
KOJI
OR IS IT THAT...
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HE'D BE FODDER FOR YOUR DEAR JUNIOR, INSTEAD?
YOU USED KOJI SO THAT
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RIKU
imperial scans.com
LISTEN KID. IF YOU WIN THE ROOKIE KING
YOU'LL BECOME A JAPANESE RANKED BOXER.
ONCE RANKED, A BOXER
CAN START AIMING FOR THE SUMMIT, FOR THE BELT.

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DON'T LET HIM GET YOU.
imperial scans.com
YES, SIR.
AN OPPONENT AGAINST WHOM HE CANNOT LOSE.
END
RIKUDO